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**MAYOR DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES HIGH DEMAND FOR PRE-K FOR ALL: 68,678 FAMILIES
APPLIED IN FIRST ROUND – TRIPLE THE NUMBER SINCE EXPANSION**

Offer letters will go out in early May – a month earlier than previous year

Second round of applications starts May 2 – families can apply to new programs and existing programs with remaining available seats

NEW YORK—Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced that 68,678 students applied to pre-K in the first round of applications – more than triple the number of children in pre-K prior to the Mayor’s expansion. NYC’s Pre-K for All alone tops the entire school population of major cities like Boston.

“Our historic Pre-K for All program has welcomed tens of thousands of families who believe strongly in the value of a first-rate, early childhood education. Parents of our city’s youngest students should be proud knowing that they have taken the first, most important step toward setting their child on a path to success,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “I want to thank our program’s tireless outreach team for their grassroots work in raising awareness and enrolling children from all across our city. I look forward to watching them continue to grow the program during our second enrollment round starting in May.”

This year, the application period opened earlier to give families more time to find the best program for their child. The DOE received 68,678 applications, on par with last year’s first round application number of 68,849 – a number more than triple the 20,000 children who attended before the Pre-K for All expansion – showing tremendous demand from New York City Families for free, full-day, high-quality pre-K.

Offer letters for families who applied in Round one will go out in early May. The second round of applications will start May 2 and go through May 20. This year, in the second round, families can apply to new programs and to existing programs with available seats as well. Last year, families were only able to apply to new programs in the second round. The change will give families more options and make it easier to enroll in a program that is a good fit for their child.

An historic 68,500 students enrolled in pre-K this year, and a recent independent analysis of the City’s pre-K programs revealed a high level of satisfaction. 83 percent of families said their child had learned a lot, and 93 percent of families said the application process was “easy” or “very easy.” Pre-K for All has also helped families’ wallets – more than half of families reported that Pre-K for All had saved them money on their childcare costs.

“This is an exciting day for 68,678 families and students who have taken the first step in their academic careers,” said **Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña**. “These soon to be pre-K students will learn new vocabulary, develop social skills and explore the world of science. We know the benefits for our City’s four-year olds are undeniable. I urge any family who didn’t apply in the first round to visit pre-K programs and apply in the second round in May.”

“New York City is on pace for a third straight year of Pre-K for All success,” said **Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Richard Buery**. “And this application number is a testament to the hard work of our all-star Pre-K Enrollment Team. A free, full-day, high-quality seat is available for every four-year-old in New York City. Pre-K is an excellent opportunity for New York City children to get a head start on the skills needed for a lifetime of learning.”

Borough Breakdown of Applications:

Borough	2016 Total Applications	2015 Total Applications
Manhattan	8,241	8,288
Bronx	13,529	14,280
Brooklyn	22,046	21,500
Queens	20,741	20,670
Staten Island	4,121	4,111
Total	68,678	68,849

All families who applied in the first round will receive their offer letters in early May, a month earlier than in previous years. Earlier offers will mean families now have a full month prior to the end of school to register, giving them more time to learn about their child’s program and easing the transition to pre-K. Families who don’t receive their top choice will be automatically placed on waitlists for programs they ranked higher than the program they are offered. If the NYCDOE is unable to offer a family an offer to one of the programs they applied to, the family will still receive an offer to a program with available seats as close as possible to the family’s home address. All families can still apply in the second round, and enrollment specialists will support families to ensure they find a pre-K seat that is a good fit for their child.

Round 2 applications will run from May 2 to May 20, more than a month earlier than last year, which means families will be able to apply and learn about programs while school is still in session. Families will now be able to apply to all programs with available seats in addition to newly added programs, which will increase the number of programs available for families to apply to in Round 2 compared to last year.

To learn more about pre-K programs, families are encouraged to use the 2016 Pre-K for All Directory available on the [pre-K website](#) in ten languages. The Pre-K Directory contains detailed admissions information and program lists. Families are also encouraged to use the online [Pre-K Finder](#) for the most up-to-date information and a searchable map. Enrollment specialists will also be available to help families throughout the process to ensure they find a program that best fits their child’s needs. You can reach an enrollment specialist by calling 212.637.8000.

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