PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY ENCOURAGES PARENTS TO REGISTER EARLY FOR PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) encourages parents to avoid the summer rush and register their child early for the upcoming school year for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes.

PGCPS has full-day pre-kindergarten programs available for income-eligible families at sites throughout the county. Families may register students for the 2010-2011 school year who are four years old on or before September 1, 2010 and who meet the following criteria:

- Resides within the identified school boundaries or are homeless
- Meet the income guidelines set by the 2010-2011 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for free and reduced meals

Children who demonstrate specific educational needs may apply for early admission to pre-kindergarten. These students will be admitted on a space-available basis.

Kindergarten Registration

Families may register students for kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year who are five years old on or before September 1, 2010. PGCPS kindergarten is a full day program. It is an academically rigorous program that stresses language arts, math, social studies, and science, as well as social, emotional, and physical development.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) mandates that all five-year-old children in the state of Maryland attend kindergarten or an alternative program setting; such as full-time in a licensed child care center, full-time in a registered family day care home, part-time in a Head Start five-year-old program, or enrolled in an approved home school instruction program. Upon request of the parent or guardian, a five-year-old may be exempted from mandatory attendance due to immaturity.
The PGCPS kindergarten curriculum is a challenging instructional program that includes:

- Daily 135 minute Reading/Language Arts block
- Daily 75 minutes mathematics block
- Daily 45 minute Science block
- A rotating 45 minute Social Studies/30 minute Health block
- Regular assessments to monitor progress and plan for continued instruction
- Small and large group exploration of concepts, and
- Independent learning activities

Who Can Register a Child, and What Is Required

Typically, only a parent or court-appointed guardian can register a child for public school. In cases of extreme hardship, permission to register a child may be granted to someone other than a parent or guardian.

When registering your child, you must bring the following items: proof of residency, proof of your child’s age, proof of your child’s required immunizations, proof of a physical exam, and a lead screening certificate. For detailed registration information, please refer to Administrative Procedure 5111.1, Admission to Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade, dated November 1, 2007, available on the PGCPS Web site or in your neighborhood school office.

For detailed information, contact the Office of Early Childhood Education at 301-808-2723.

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