



Thank you for your interest in Young Fives. **The District will once again offer Young Fives!**

The District has compiled responses to frequently asked questions regarding the Young Fives program. The purpose of this document is to support families who are making decisions about Young Fives and to provide clarity about the program. This document will be updated with the most current information regarding our Young Fives program. You may also contact your building principal or Keith Howell at howellk@gpschools.org for additional information.

What are Young Fives? Is there a cost?

*The Young Fives program offers an alternative for children whose parents feel that they are not yet ready for a traditional kindergarten experience. **The program is free** for younger five-year-old children who live in the Grosse Pointe Public School System attendance area. Eligibility is determined by birth date -- children must turn five between March 1 and December 1, 2024. The natural progression from the Young Fives program would be to Kindergarten.*

Will there be an informational meeting?

Each elementary school hosts a Young Fives/Kindergarten Info Night in January. Interested families should attend the Info Night at their assigned neighborhood school. [Click here](#) to view the school boundary map.

Which schools offer Young Fives?

Young Fives will be offered at all GPPSS Elementary School Buildings, depending upon enrollment, during the 2024-25 school year. If enrollment numbers do not allow for a Young Fives class at your home school, the District reserves the right to add, combine, or cancel any Young Fives location based on interest and space availability.

What are the steps to enroll into the Young Fives program?

All interested must complete the following steps:

1. **Submit the YOUNG FIVES LOTTERY PREFERENCE FORM (form available on January 12, 2024)**
 - a. *This form is required in the event that enrollment numbers indicate the need to combine any Young Fives classrooms due to low enrollment.*
 - b. *This form is also required in the event that interest exceeds 24 students from a neighborhood school. If that happens, all students from that school will be placed based on lottery results for their neighborhood school first. Once the classroom is*



filled then students will be placed based on lottery preference indicated on the Young Fives Lottery Form. Students who complete the Young Fives program in a building other than their home school due to the combining of programs would be expected to return to their home school the following year (kindergarten).

2. Complete [GPPSS ENROLLMENT](#), which includes verifying residency. This can be done online, or you can make an appointment with the enrollment office by calling 313.432.3083:
 - a. *If enrolling in person, bring ALL documentation to your appointment at the Enrollment Office: 20601 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods (entrance off the Morningside parking lot, Grosse Pointe North High School).*

If the steps above are completed by April 8, 2024, you will be guaranteed a spot in the Young Fives program.

Why was I asked to fill out a waiver form for Young Fives?

In Michigan, children must be five years of age on or before September 1st to register for Kindergarten or Young Fives. Parents of children who turn five years of age on or before December 1, may still register their child for Young Fives or Kindergarten; however, they will need to notify the district in writing using the Young Fives/Kindergarten entry waiver form.

How does the Young Fives Lottery work?

Students will be assigned to their neighborhood school unless otherwise stated below:

- *If interest exceeds 24 students for neighborhood school (class size parameters set by the Board of Education) then all students from that school will be placed based on lottery results for their neighborhood school first, and if filled then placed based on lottery preference indicated on the Young Fives Lottery Form.*
- *If enrollment numbers indicate combining or canceling of the Young Fives Program within a particular building then a lottery will take place on April 11, 2024 and placement will be based on the Young Fives Lottery Preference Form. Parents will be notified of the lottery results and student placement via email and phone by April 12, 2024. Parents must respond by April 17, 2024 to confirm placement.*
- *Lottery preference will be provided to Young Five students that already have older siblings enrolled in the school.*

What if I sign up after April 8, 2024?

All GPPSS students who sign up after April 8, 2024, will be placed on a waitlist until after the lottery. Once the lottery is completed, waitlisted students will be placed based on parental interest, by order of enrollment and availability.



Is my child guaranteed a spot in the program at our home building if we complete the enrollment process before the lottery?

*If all three steps above are complete by **April 8, 2024**, you will be guaranteed a spot in the Young Fives program. We are unable to guarantee placement at home building until we have a firm understanding of enrollment numbers. Since the conception of the Young Fives program, all families that completed the enrollment process by the required date were offered a spot in the program. With that said, some parents declined because it was not their preferred location after the lottery was completed. The District wants to continue to offer this great opportunity to anyone interested and will make every effort to do so for those that complete the enrollment steps by April 8, 2024.*

What happens when my child goes to Kindergarten after Young Fives?

Regardless of which building a student is assigned to for their Young Fives experience, they are expected to attend their neighborhood school for their traditional kindergarten experience the following year.

What is the Transition Event?

The Transition Event is an exciting opportunity for your child to visit their new school and meet with teachers. The event will include a pre-kindergarten assessment. We will take a look at the following:

- *Identification of shapes*
- *Colors*
- *Letters - uppercase and lowercase*
- *Letter sounds*
- *Numbers*
- *Counting*
- *Ability to write their name*

*We do **not** expect young fives or kindergarten students to be able to demonstrate **all** of the skills mentioned. However, this transition activity provides a **snapshot** of where we can meet your child's learning needs, as well as an opportunity for you to become more familiar with the school and staff.*

Each child that attends this event will also receive a backpack with goodies to support summer learning. Additional information about the transition event will be provided by your building principal at your neighborhood school in early spring, with the event taking place in May.



What is the class size for each site?

Typically, class size ranges from 18-24 students. Class size limits are established by the board of education for elementary with 24 for Young Fives/Kindergarten.

My child just misses the December 1st cut off date. Can the district make an exception and let them into the Young Fives program if I sign a waiver?

In order to attend Young Fives, the student must turn 5 by December 1. In Michigan, children must be five years of age on or before September 1st to register for Young Fives or Kindergarten. Parents of children who turn five years of age on or before December 1, may still register their child for Young 5/Kindergarten 2024-25 school year if they notify the district in writing using the entry waiver form that is provided in the enrollment office. **There is no waiver exception for after December 1.**

We are unable to make exceptions with respect to the cut off dates because they are set by the Michigan Department of Education and not by the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The section of the Revised School Code that addresses this issue is contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.1147.

While we are unable to accommodate your request to have your child enter Young Fives, we will be excited to serve your child in our kindergarten program during the 2024-25 school year. If you would like outstanding programming for your child during the 2024-25 school year in our tuition-based preschool program, you can contact the Grosse Pointe Public School System's tuition-based Child Development and Preschool program at (313) 432-3809 or visit the [preschool website](#) for more information.

What does Young Fives look like?

The professional staff believes that each student is unique. Our staff is dedicated to providing appropriate and stimulating experiences and activities from which your child can learn, grow, and develop a wholesome attitude toward learning. The Young Fives program will follow the kindergarten curriculum, while taking the necessary time to ensure students understand concepts at a developmentally appropriate pace. With that being said, we anticipate that our Young Fives program will provide our youngest learners an amazing experience that will help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally in order to be prepared for Kindergarten.

This program will run Monday through Friday during regular school hours. The full-day program includes age and ability-appropriate instruction in all common core subject areas. The day is a wonderful combination of large and small group activities, with opportunities for individual and



buddy work. Music, movement, and art activities are woven throughout the curriculum and daily routine. The Young Fives classrooms will also participate in physical education, library, music, and art classes each week. Recess is part of our daily routine to foster gross motor development and play. We want all our Young Fives to be happy and enthusiastic to learn, so providing a safe and fun learning environment is critical.

What happens after Young Fives?

The District will send communication to Young Fives families in February to provide a process for transitioning to Kindergarten. This will include the following information:

- *Regardless of which building a student is assigned to for their Young Fives experience, they are expected to attend their neighborhood school for their traditional kindergarten experience in the following year.*
- *If your home school is the same as your child's Young Fives school then you need to take no further action regarding enrolling your child for their Kindergarten year.*
- *If your home school is different from your child's location for Young Fives then the district will automatically transfer your child's records and information to that home school. You do not need to take any formal action.*
- *Typically, students in Young Fives would attend kindergarten for the next school year. If a student meets the kindergarten social, emotional, and academic expectations at the conclusion of the Young Fives program, then parents will work with their teacher and building principal regarding first grade placement for the following year. These decisions will be made on an individualized basis. Please contact your Young Fives teacher if you have questions.*

If I enroll for Young Fives and change my mind in August and wish to place my child in kindergarten, will I lose my spot at my home school?

Families will need to let the district know their intentions about Kindergarten by May 1 to guarantee a spot at their home elementary school. If a parent changes their mind in August about Young Fives placement, they will need to contact the enrollment office to see if there is still Kindergarten space at their home school. If not, Kindergarten enrollment will be subject to the below Administrative Guidelines:

For the purposes of this guideline, a student must meet the requirements of Board Policy 5111, "Enrollment," to establish residency and complete initial enrollment before being assigned to an elementary school.



If a family establishes both residency and completes initial enrollment by May 1 of the preceding school year, the student(s) shall be assigned to the elementary school that corresponds with the attendance area within which the family resides. This guarantees that the students of a family that establishes residency and completes initial enrollment by May 1 of the preceding school year may attend their home school.

For initial enrollments that occur after May 1, the first priority will be to place students in the elementary school for the attendance area within which the family resides. However, if the grade level at that elementary school within which the family resides is unavailable because it has reached its maximum class size (as identified by the Board of Education via their annual Budget Parameters), the student shall be placed in a different elementary school. During this placement process parent input regarding where their child is placed shall be considered.

Can we send our child to Young Fives for a shortened school day or school week?

The Young Fives program is not designed for a shortened day or a part-time schedule. In some cases, the building principal, teacher, and parents will collaboratively design a plan to support a student's stamina for learning at the start of the school year. This is typically a temporary soft start and not intended to last the school year. These decisions will be made on an individualized basis. Please contact your Young Fives teacher and building principal if you have questions.

My question isn't answered in this FAQ document?

Not a problem, please contact Keith Howell at 313-432-3044 or email your questions to him at howellk@gpschools.org. He is happy to answer your questions and add it to this FAQ document.