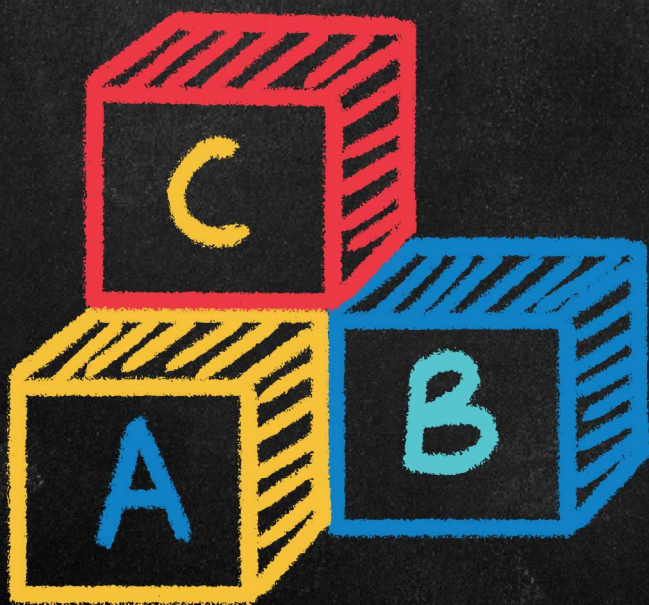


Early
Learning
&
Childcare



Application Guide

2026-2027



Use this guide and follow the steps carefully when applying for an Early Learning & Childcare seat for your child.

Follow These Steps to Successfully Complete Your Application:

STEP ONE:

Use the EC Explore Tool to research NOLA-PS early learning centers and make a list in order of preference

STEP TWO:

Prepare ALL Documents for a seamless verification process

STEP THREE:

Visit EnrollNolaPS.com and complete your NOLA-PS Early Learning application

STEP FOUR:

Receive message about your application's progress

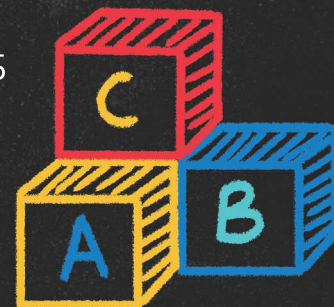
Note:

Not every child is eligible for a free early learning program seat. Eligibility requirements include parental income, age, residency, and other factors.



Who Can Apply:

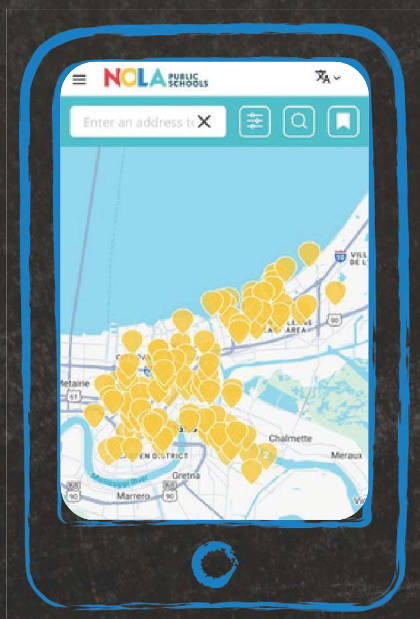
- Residents of Orleans Parish (Some funding sources are open to residents from other parishes in Louisiana)
- Expectant Parent(s) with children under the age of 5
- Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) with children under the age of 5



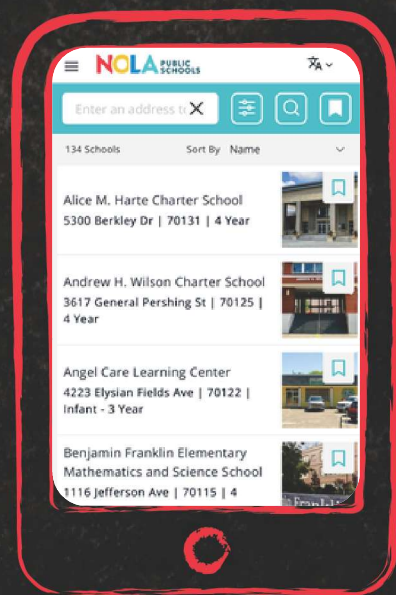
STEP ONE:

Use the EC Explore Tool to research NOLA-PS early learning centers and make a list in order of preference.

**CLICK HERE FOR THE EXPLORE EARLY
LEARNING & CHILD CARE CENTERS**
or visit <https://ecnola.explore.avela.org/>



Use the Explore NOLA-PS Early Learning Centers found on EnrollNolaPS.com and make a list of the top centers you're interested in and rank them based on your family's interest and needs.



Early Learning Gifted and Talented seats are available for eligible gifted and talented children between 3 and 4 years old.

To qualify, families must have a current Gifted and Talented IEP approved by the NOLA-PS Office of Child Search and a verified Early Learning & Child Care Application.

Gifted and Talented Evaluations can be scheduled at www.nolapublicschools.com/families/child-search.



STEP TWO:

Prepare ALL Documents for a seamless verification process.

- To **verify your child**: Bring ONE of these:
 - Birth certificate (from any state or another country)
 - Current passport
 - Visa
 -
- To **verify the parent/guardian**: Bring ONE of these:
 - Driver's license
 - State ID card
 - Passport
 - Military ID
- To **verify household size**, parents must provide **ONE of the following for each child under the age of 18** living in the same household as the applying child:
 - Birth certificate
 - Current passport
 - or a Visa.
 - If the parent/guardian's name is not listed on the birth certificate, additional documentation proving legal guardianship is required.
- To **verify your address**: Bring ONE of these:
 - Current lease (include the signature page)
 - Mortgage statement
 - Most recent water bill
 - Most recent Entergy (electric) bill
 - Most recent cable/internet bill
- **Important**: The parent/guardian's name must be on the document.
 - If you live with another adult whose name is on the document, you must also upload ALL of the following:
 - Proof of residency in their name
 - A photo ID from that person
 - A signed letter (with the date) stating that they provide housing for the parent and child/children.
- To **verify your income**: Please provide ALL that apply:
 - **If your child is Birth to 3 years old**:
 - 4 paycheck stubs in a row from the last 45 days for ALL parents and other adults in the home
 - **If your child is 4 years old**:
 - 2 paycheck stubs in a row from the last 45 days for ALL parents and other adults in the home
 - OR you can bring:
 - A statement from the Social Security Administration showing SSI benefits for anyone in the household
 - Proof of unearned income (examples: alimony, child support, disability benefits, FITAP/TANF, veteran benefits)
 - An official employer letter with job's letterhead that shows:
 - Job's address
 - Hourly pay rate
 - Average weekly hours
 - Unemployment benefits letter (Monetary Determination) from the Workforce Commission
 - Statement of No Income form if you have zero income
 - Declaration of Irregular Employment if you are self-employed or work off and on with no other proof of income



STEP THREE:

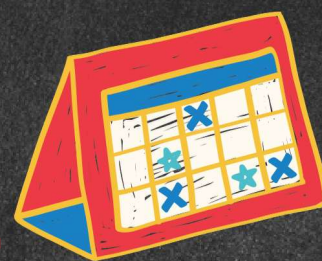
Visit EnrollNolaPS.com and Complete Your NOLA-PS Early Learning Online Application

- Log into the [Parent Portal](#). If it is your first time applying, you will need to create login credentials. **If you already have a profile, PLEASE DO NOT CREATE A NEW PROFILE.**
- Follow the prompts to create your family profile.
- Complete Eligibility Check prompts.
- Select school choices.
- Answer questions and upload documents for eligibility verification directly in the [Parent Portal](#).

The application for 2026 - 2027 period for early childhood **Main Round enrollment is open from January 5th to February 20th.**

Match results will be available during the last week of April each year. This is when families will be notified of their child's enrollment status and seat placement.

Remember to apply within this main round window to ensure consideration for your preferred school or program. Applications received after the deadline will be considered during Open Enrollment.



Open Enrollment begins June 1, 2026.

What is Main Round Enrollment:

Held once per year, this is when all publicly funded seats become available for all eligible children. If your application is approved and your child is eligible for a free seat, your choices will be included in the match and eligible to be waitlisted.

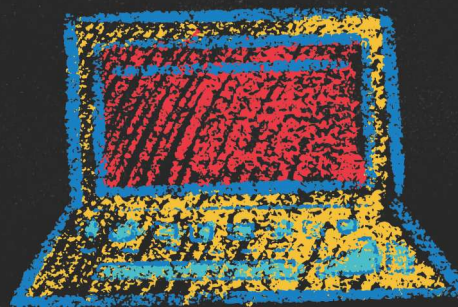
Due to the timing of the state's seat allocations, these following funding sources receive placement during main round:

- Early Head Start
- Head Start
- LA4
- NSECD
- Tuition (Family Pays)

What is Open Enrollment:

This is the period outside of main round window. Applications are accepted for publicly funded seats, but placement is not guaranteed.

Although all of the funding sources might not be available at the beginning of Open Enrollment due to the timing of the state's seat allocation, this is the enrollment period that will offer them all at various points during the cycle.









[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

STEP FOUR:

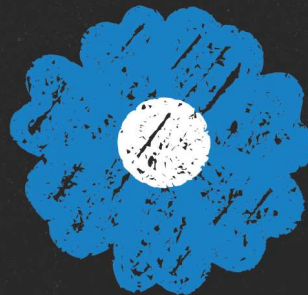
Tracking Your Application Status

Your verification status can be found on your application dashboard. The following terms will explain your status.

 INCOMPLETE Your application was not processed due to missing documents. Please upload all required documents needed to determine eligibility.	SUBMITTED Your application has been submitted and will be reviewed for verification. 	 VERIFIED Your application has been verified by a NOLA-PS staff member.
LOCKED FOR THE LOTTERY  Your application was considered in the main round and you have been added to waitlists. We will begin making offers during Open Enrollment.	ADMISSIONS  Your application was considered in the main round. Please check your school choices in your parent portal.	 CANCELED Your application has been canceled. This may be because your child is not age-eligible or this is a duplicate application. Contact NOLA-PS if you have any questions.

Receive Messages About Your Application's Progress

- You will receive notification of placement results in your application portal.
- Use the [Enroll NOLA Application Portal](#) to see your results and accept or decline seats.
- When a seat becomes available, and you are next on the list, you will get an offer via text or email.
- If your contact information changes after you apply or you would like to add/change your school list, visit a Family Resource Center.



Early Learning & Childcare The ABC Center Access Browse Connect

Your directory to successfully **Access, Browse and Connect!**

- **Availability Chart** - <https://lookerstudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/f7ca65b8-4291-40a4-ad00-83823aa24509/page/Rh38C>
- **EC Eligibility Checklist** - <https://enrollnolaps.com/ec-eligibility-checklist-2>
- **EC Explore Tool** - <https://ecnola.explore.avela.org/>
- **EC FAQ Page** - <https://enrollnolaps.com/birth-4-years-faqs>
- **Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/NOLAEarlyChildhoodEducation>
- **Instagram** - <https://www.instagram.com/nolapsearlylearningchildcare/>
- **Upcoming Events** - <https://enrollnolaps.com/resources#UpcomingEvents>

NOLA-PS operates three Family Resource Centers to assist families enrolling in NOLA-PS schools and early childhood programs. Our centers are conveniently located across the city and open for walk-in support Monday - Thursday and virtually on Fridays.

N.O. EAST LOCATION

Family Resource Center at The NET East
12000 Haynes Blvd., NOLA 70128

UPTOWN LOCATION

Family Resource Center at Mahalia Jackson School
2405 Jackson Ave., NOLA 70113

WESTBANK LOCATION

Family Resource Center at NOLA-PS Central Office
2401 Westbend Parkway, NOLA 70114

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 8 - 12 and 1 - 4
FRIDAY: CLOSED – NO IN-PERSON VISITS



If you require assistance, please email enroll@nolapublicschools.com or visit one of our Family Resource Centers.

NOLA-PS In-Person Events:

Might Minutes for Tiny Tots

- **Purpose:** Review and discuss application questions for clarity, changes, and retention.
- **Participants:** Parents, guardians, and early childhood providers.
- **Timeframe:** November - December

Application Hub Events

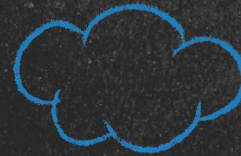
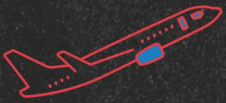
- **Purpose:** A centralized event where families receive guidance on completing applications, understanding eligibility requirements, and verifying documents.
- **Timeframe:** January-March (The final month is dependent on Mardi Gras)

Verification Events

- **Purpose:** Help families verify their documents and complete applications on the spot.
- **Services:** Staff assist with verifying eligibility documents such as income, residency, and age requirements.
- **Timeframe:** June - Mid-July & August - September

Exploration Fair

- **Purpose:** Introduce families to various school and early learning options available in New Orleans. Schools, childcare centers, and education organizations set up booths to provide information about their programs.
- **Services:** Families can interact with school representatives, learn about different educational models, and gather resources to make informed choices.
- **Timeframe:** January



ECEF Funding Source Information

To qualify for an ECEF seat, **parents must be working at least 20 hours, in school for 12 credit hours a semester, in a training program or able to show proof that they are seeking work through the HiRE system** through the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

If your student is Infant - 2 years old, ECEF Redetermination is required to keep your child's seat for following term.

Families previously deemed eligible by Actively Seeking Employment in redetermination must be employed or in training for their subsequent year to remain eligible.

Families deemed eligible as Actively Seeking Employment should be redetermined at 12 months of enrollment.

🔄 Why? The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) requires families to reverify eligibility every 12 months to ensure funding remains aligned with current household needs.

What You'll Need

- Household Information
 - Birth certificates for all children in the home
 - Custody documentation (if applicable)
- Income Information
 - Four recent consecutive pay stubs
 - SNAP, SSI, or child support documentation (if applicable)
 - Louisiana HiRE dashboard (if seeking employment)
- Proof of Residency
 - Lease agreement with signature page
 - Recent utility bill (gas, electric, water, etc.)

How to Complete Redetermination

1. Go to apply.avela.org/NOLAPS
2. Log in using your existing credentials (DO NOT CREATE A NEW PROFILE)
3. Select your child and choose the school year listed in your notification email.
4. Select "Redetermination" when prompted (DO NOT START A NEW APPLICATION)
5. Answer all questions and upload required documents
6. Review and finalize your submission



Deadline: Within 60 days of your child's enrollment anniversary date

If you do not complete Redetermination by this date, your child's seat will be released and offered to another family.

