

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2023 Contact: Jackie Piques, Chief Communications and Development Officer, jpiques@k12.somerville.ma.us

### Open Houses, School Tours Planned in Advance of Enrollment for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten for 2024-2025 School Year

Somerville Public Schools' Online Enrollment System opens from January 3 through February 23, 2024; Families who enroll by February 23 deadline will be eligible for first round of school assignments.

Four Information Sessions and three Open House Events planned in November, December, 2023 and January, 2024.

**Somerville, MA** – The Somerville Public Schools' (SPS) annual school enrollment period for prekindergarten and kindergarten students will open on January 3, 2024, and SPS staff are gearing up to make sure Somerville families are ready and able to enroll students. All students who will be 4 years old by August 31, 2024 are eligible for the district's PK program. All students who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2024 are eligible for Kindergarten.

This month, staff in the SPS Enrollment Office and the Department of Early Education and Care will hold virtual and in-person information sessions to provide details and answer questions about the enrollment process, and a series of three Open Houses are planned in November, December, and January at district schools with grades PK – 8. In addition to the planned events – whether you are an existing SPS family or new to the district – the Enrollment Office team is available to answer questions and support families during business hours at Central Administration (appointments are preferred, if possible). The Enrollment Office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (M, W, Th, F) and 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, at 167 Holland Street (Third Floor). Appointments can be made by emailing <u>enrollment@k12.somerville.ma.us</u> or calling 617-629-5670.

### Information Sessions about Enrolling in Schools

Prekindergarten Information Sessions: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

- 9-10:00 a.m. online via Zoom
- 5:30–6:30 p.m., East Somerville Community School, library, 50 Cross Street
- Kindergarten Information Sessions: Tuesday, November 16, 2023
  - 9-10:00 a.m. online via Zoom
  - 5:30–6:30 p.m., Arthur D. Healey School, library, 5 Meacham Street

Local community groups can request an additional session if interested. Please contact the Enrollment Office directly with inquiries.



# **Open Houses in November, December, January**

Prospective SPS families are welcome to attend upcoming Open Houses at schools that include classrooms for grades PK – 8. A full list of schools and locations is available at <u>www.somerville.k12.ma.us/schools.</u> The schools participating in Open House dates below are: Capuano Early Childhood Center (PK-K), Arthur D. Healey School (PK-8), Benjamin G. Brown School (K-5), East Somerville Community School (PK-8), Albert F. Argenziano School (PK-8), John F. Kennedy School (PK-8), West Somerville Neighborhood School (PK-8), and Winter Hill Community Innovation School (PK-8)

### **Remaining Open House Dates:**

- Wednesday, November 29,2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 7, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (snow date only if necessary: Tuesday, December 19)
- Tuesday, January 9, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (snow date only if necessary: Thursday, January 11)

## SPS PK & K Enrollment Process

The enrollment portal for Somerville Public Schools will open on January 3, 2024.

- **Prekindergarten** families who enroll by February 23, 2024 will be assigned a school based on a lottery system with no criteria for assignments.
- **Kindergarten** families who enroll by February 23, 2024 will be eligible for the first round of school assignments through a lottery system based on Somerville School Committee policy, which prioritizes sibling preference and proximity (school to which your address is connected).
- Families who enroll after February 23, 2024 will be assigned a school based on seat availability.

When the online system is open, it will be available at <u>www.somerville.k12.ma.us/enrollment</u>. More information will be released prior to the online enrollment date, and information can always be found on the Enrollment page. Families who are unable to access online services and/or families needing additional support should contact the SPS Enrollment Office at 617-629-5670 or <u>enrollment@k12.somerville.ma.us</u>.

### **Community Schools/Afterschool Registration**

**IMPORTANT:** Families who are interested in enrolling their students in the Community Schools Afterschool program, run by Somerville Public Schools, will need to register through a <u>separate</u> registration system. The Community Schools portal will be open for Somerville Public Schools students, as follows:

• Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Afterschool Registration: March 19 – 28, 2024



Afterschool seats are assigned based on availability at sites and through a weighted enrollment system. For more information, visit <u>www.somerville.k12.ma.us/CommunitySchools</u>.

Community Schools Afterschool is only one option available to families in Somerville. Community Schools is part of the SPS system, though a fee is charged. For other available afterschool programs please visit Somerville Hub Connect <u>website</u>, updated by the City's Somerpromise Department.

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