



DELAWARE READINESS TEAMS

# Kindergarten Registration Process in Delaware

- **28 districts and charters** provide kindergarten to Delaware's children.
- Districts/Charters provided **5 different months** for the start of kindergarten registration.
- There is **no common deadline** for kindergarten registration in Delaware.
- Most districts use **hard copies of registration paperwork**, which is then inputted into eSchool by office staff.
- There is an average of **7 forms with repetitive questions required** for kindergarten registration.



# What Parents Say About The Process...

- **76%** of parents describe the kindergarten registration process in Delaware as **hard or extremely hard** to navigate.
- **98%** of families who completed the Spanish survey said kindergarten registration was **hard or extremely hard** to navigate.
- The following aspects of the kindergarten registration process were reported as the **most challenging**:
  - Understanding what was expected of me as a parent
  - Navigating the school choice process
  - Finding a school to register my child
- **33%** of the parents who completed the Spanish survey said the **most challenging** part of kindergarten registration was the language barrier.



# What parents say about the school choice process...

- **72%** of parents described the school choice process as **hard or extremely hard** to navigate.
- **94%** of families who completed the Spanish survey reported School Choice was **hard or extremely hard to navigate**.
- **24%** of parents reported navigating the school choice process as the most challenging part of Kindergarten Registration.



# Current State: Process



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2018-2019 School Year

2019-2020 School Year

School Choice  
Deadline

Teachers  
Hired for  
2019-2020  
School Year

Start of School:  
Hundreds of  
Students Are  
Not Registered

Sept. 30  
Decision to  
Hire More  
Teachers  
and/or split  
classrooms

Oct-Dec

Jan-Mar

Apr-Jul

Aug- Sept

Kindergarten Registration Opens

# System Challenges



- Inefficient
- Hinders hiring full teacher staff
- Limits instructional time with highest-need children
- Choice participation is limited, especially among low-income, special education, and English Learner students
- Families start school without strong relationships/connections

## Family Challenges

When surveyed, families asked for

A common, easy to use website with much less redundant paperwork to fill out

Better advertisements on when registration is taking place

More information for families new to the school system

More information on choice

Registration location(s) with running open hours outside of regular school operating hours

# What The Readiness Teams Are Doing To Solve The Problem (2018-2019)

Distribute Kindergarten Registration Information Folders to Families

Build Capacity of Early Learning Providers to Help Families Navigate Transition

Host 2019 – 2020 Kindergarten Academies

Host 2020 – 2021 Kindergarten Academies

Oct-Dec

Jan-Mar

Apr-Jul

Launch Event for the Kindergarten Registration in Delaware

Establish November as Kindergarten Registration Month in Delaware with information on School Choice

Host Local Registration Events throughout the Month of November

Establish December 15 as Kindergarten Registration Deadline