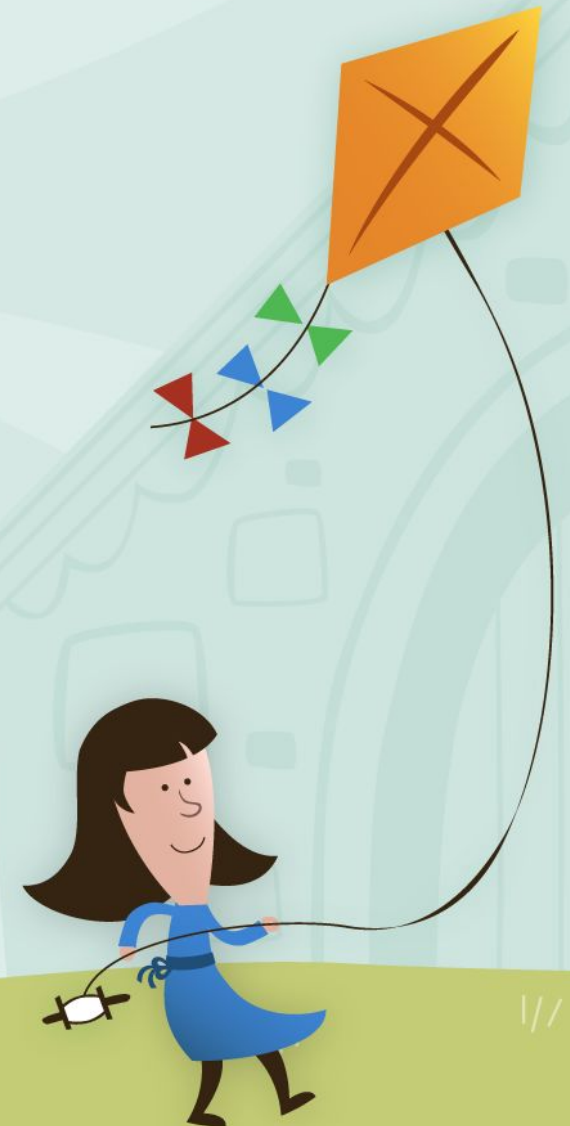


Your Options for Kindergarten & 1st Grade

February 2021



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Your Options

1. Public School
2. Charter School
3. Other Private Schools
4. Home School
5. Stay at Our School (Kindergarten only, 1st graders have to go 😞)



Lee County Public Schools Overview

2019 - 2020 DISTRICT PROFILE

95,647
Approximate student
enrollment for 2019-2020*



9TH
Largest School
District in Florida



33RD
Largest School
District in the
Nation*



**Source: National Center for Education
Statistics FY 2019*



Lee County Public Schools Overview

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY OPERATES
THE 7TH LARGEST BUS FLEET IN FLORIDA

912
BUSES

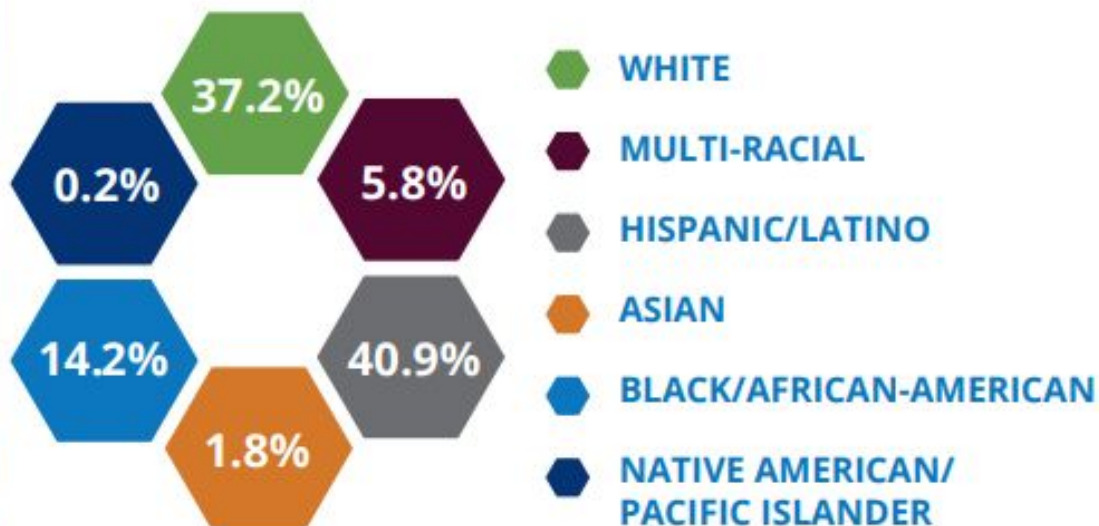
727
ROUTES

49,242
STUDENTS TRANSPORTED



Lee County Public Schools Overview

STUDENT RACIAL DIVERSITY*



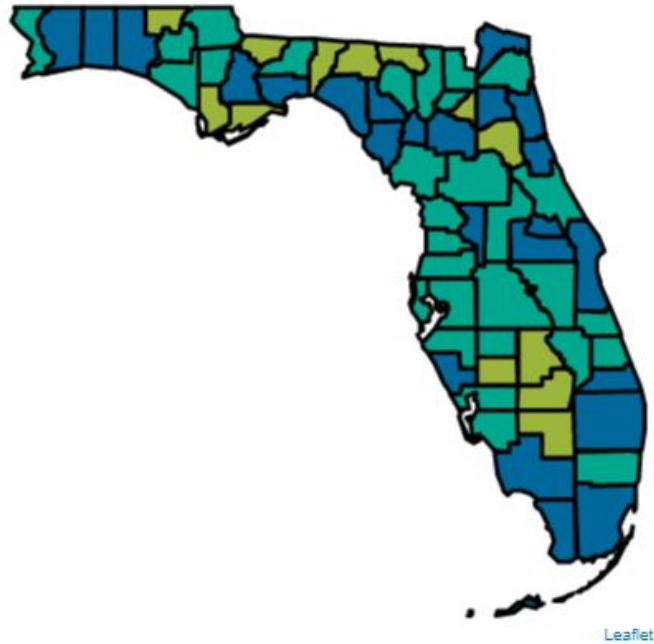
*As of 2019-2020



Public & Charter Schools

- Florida is much more transparent about the performance of its public schools than other states.
- All Florida school districts earn a “district grade”, in 2018-2019 Lee County Public Schools earned a “B”, in the middle of the pack.

2018-19 District Grades Map



Leaflet

Count of Districts by District Grade

A	B	C	D	F
24	30	13	0	0



2018-19 District Grades

District Number	District Name	English Language Arts Achievement	English Language Arts Learning Gains	English Language Arts Learning Gains of the Lowest 25%	Mathematics Achievement	Mathematics Learning Gains	Mathematics Learning Gains of the Lowest 25%	Science Achievement	Social Studies Achievement	Middle School Acceleration	Graduation Rate 2017-18	College and Career Acceleration 2017-18	Total Points Earned	Percent of Total Possible Points	Percent Tested	Grade 2019	Grade 2018	Grade 2017	Grade 2016	Informational Baseline Grade 2015	Grade 2014	Grade 2013	Grade 2012	Grade 2011	Grade 2010	
31	INDIAN RIVER	56	55	45	58	56	47	56	68	56	92	65	654	11	59	98	B	B	B	B	A	C	C	B	A	A
32	JACKSON	58	54	44	56	50	43	49	70	73	79	62	638	11	58	97	B	B	B	C	B	C	C	B	B	B
33	JEFFERSON	34	41	44	40	44	46	28	58	52	73	47	507	11	46	98	C	C	D	D	D	F	F	D	C	D
34	LAFAYETTE	59	58	42	72	58	49	67	70	78	97	85	735	11	67	99	A	A	B	B	B	B	C	B	B	B
35	LAKE	55	53	42	57	56	42	58	71	72	84	53	643	11	58	99	B	B	B	C	B	C	C	B	B	B
36	LEE	55	54	42	59	60	49	53	68	68	83	55	646	11	59	99	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	B	A	A
37	LEON	58	54	40	62	59	43	57	78	73	93	55	672	11	61	99	B	B	B	B	A	B	C	B	A	A
38	LEVY	47	51	52	54	53	43	54	72	67	87	62	642	11	58	97	B	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	B	B
39	LIBERTY	63	58	51	57	54	50	58	76	76	77	76	696	11	63	98	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	B	A	B
40	MADISON	42	46	41	45	45	38	41	61	55	81	55	550	11	50	98	C	B	C	C	C	F	F	D	D	D

*Pursuant to [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1](#), spring K-12 statewide assessment test administrations for the 2019-20 school year were canceled and accountability measures reliant on such data were not calculated for the 2019-20 school year. Additionally, in April 2020, the U.S. Department of Education provided a [Report Card waiver](#) for requirements related to certain assessments and accountability that are based on data from the 2019-20 school year.



Public School

2019 Public Elementary Schools receiving and “A” or “B”.

- It’s the same 10 or so schools that are top performing each year.
- This list does not include “combination schools” with middle school.
- 2018 was the first year with no “D” or “F” ranked public elementary schools. Rubric possibly changed to make it grading easier and not make low performing schools feel that they are “failing” schools.



School	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bonita Springs Elementary	B	C	C	D	C	A	A	A	A
Diplomat Elementary	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts	B	A	B	C	B	C	C	A	A
Fort Myers Beach Elementary	B	C	A	B	A	A	A	A	A
Gulf Elementary	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	A
Orangewood Elementary	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	A
Pinewoods Elementary	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	B	A
Rayma C. Page Elementary	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Three Oaks Elementary	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Trafalgar Elementary	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A
Allen Park Elementary	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	C	B
Bayshore Elementary	A	B	A	A	B	C	A	B	B
Caloosa Elementary	A	A	A	A	B	C	A	A	B
Cape Elementary	A	A	A	B	A	B	C	B	B
Franklin Park Elementary	C	D	F	F	D	C	C	C	B
Gateway Elementary	A	B	A	B	B	C	B	C	B
Heights Elementary	A	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	B
James Stephens International Acedemy	#	#	#	#	#	#	B	C	B
Manatee Elementary	B	C	D	F	D	F	D	C	B
Patriot Elementary	A	B	C	A	C	C	B	C	B
Pelican Elementary	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pine Island Elementary	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
Ray V. Pottorf Elementary	C	C	C	D	D	C	D	C	B
River Hall Elementary	B	C	C	B	C	C	C	C	B
Spring Creek Elementary	A	B	C	C	C	C	C	B	B
Tanglewood Elementary	B	A	A	A	B	B	C	C	B
Treeline Elementary	A	B	C	A	C	B	B	C	B
Villas Elementary	A	A	B	A	C	C	C	C	B

Charter Schools

- 2019 Charter Elementary Schools
- Nearly every year, several charter schools open, close, or change names / management companies

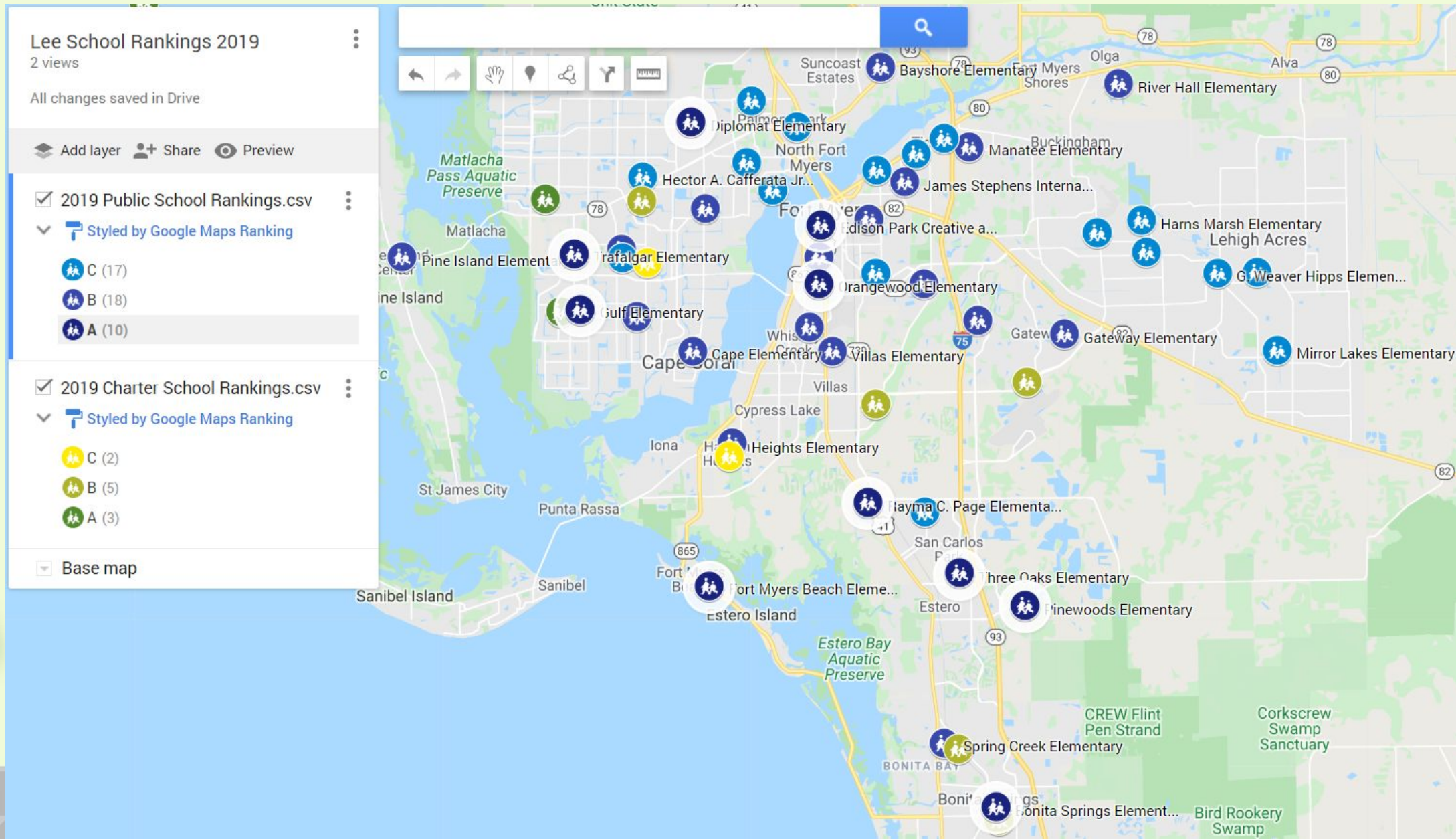
In my opinion, there is no conclusive evidence that charters perform better or worse than public schools. They are both free and thus the same families have access to both public schools and charter schools and so the outcome is largely the same.

School	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Christa McAulliffe Charter Elementary	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
Oasis Charter Elementary	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A
The Island School	#	#	#	#	B	I	A	A	A
Bonita Springs Charter	A	A	B	C	A	B	A	A	B
Cape Coral Charter	B	B	C	B	B	C	C	C	B
Gateway Charter Elementary	A	A	B	C	B	B	C	A	B
Oak Creek Charter School of Bonita Springs	A	B	C	B	C	C	C	C	B
Six Mile Charter Academy	B	A	B	B	C	C	B	B	B
Harlem Heights Community Charter	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	C
Heritage Charter Academy of Cape Coral	#	#	D	C	C	B	C	B	C



Public & Charter Elementary Schools

Lee County charter and public elementary schools, the darker the marker, the higher the grade. You may want to start here by looking for high ranked schools near both (1) your home and (2) your place of work.



Lee County “School Choice” School Assignment System

So, how do I get started selecting my top choices for a public or charter school?

1. Identify 3-5 schools you are interested in based on the map on the previous page.
2. Read online reviews. Google.com, Facebook.com, Greatschools.org, and more.
3. Ask friends about their experience. Our parents directory show which families have older children which may be in public or charter elementary schools.
4. Ask for a tour. Many schools will give tours on certain days. Do it now while children are in session. Do your research in advance (you read their latest report card before you visited, right? <http://www.leeschools.net/school-report-cards>) and write down your questions.
5. You will have little control over which teacher you get assigned (there may be 7 different kindergarten classes) but you can ask about length of tenure of the kindergarten lead teachers and administrative team.
6. Look on www.leeschools.net and learn about the elementary schools with special programs, e.g.

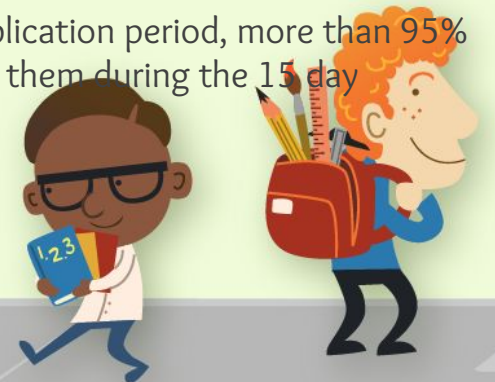
- Creative arts program at Edison Park Elementary
- Math and Science program at Allen Park
- International Baccalaureate at Heights Elementary
- More...



Public & Charter Schools

Ok, I know my top three choices, now what?

1. Lee County Public Schools assigns children via the “School choice” lottery system.
2. Register your child on the FOCUS system at Leeschools.net, January 18, 2021 – February 26, 2021. You may also register in person or via email.
 1. Visit here to find you nearest student assignment office location: <http://www.leeschools.net>
 2. Your application will be processed the same regardless of when you submit the application during the open enrollment period. However, if you miss the February 26, 2021 deadline, this will limit your chances of getting your top choice.
3. The Lottery process.
 1. Begins once the open enrollment period ends, each application is assigned a random number that determines the order in which the application will be processed.
 2. Applications are then sorted, giving priority to 1) Students in full-time special education classes; 2) Siblings wanting to attend the same school; 3) Students living within proximity areas (P1 – “walking distance” within 2 miles, P2 – 5 miles, and P3 – over 5 miles) of each school, and 4) Zone attractor programs (typically middle school and older only)
 3. School assignments are mailed home in late April.
 4. Students who receive an assignment other than their first choice are placed on a waiting list for the first 15 days of school. Student Assignment personnel will notify parents if a seat opens during this window. When participating in the first application period, more than 95% of families ultimately receive one of their top three choices, and many pass on a seat that becomes available to them during the 15 day window because they are happy with their assigned school.



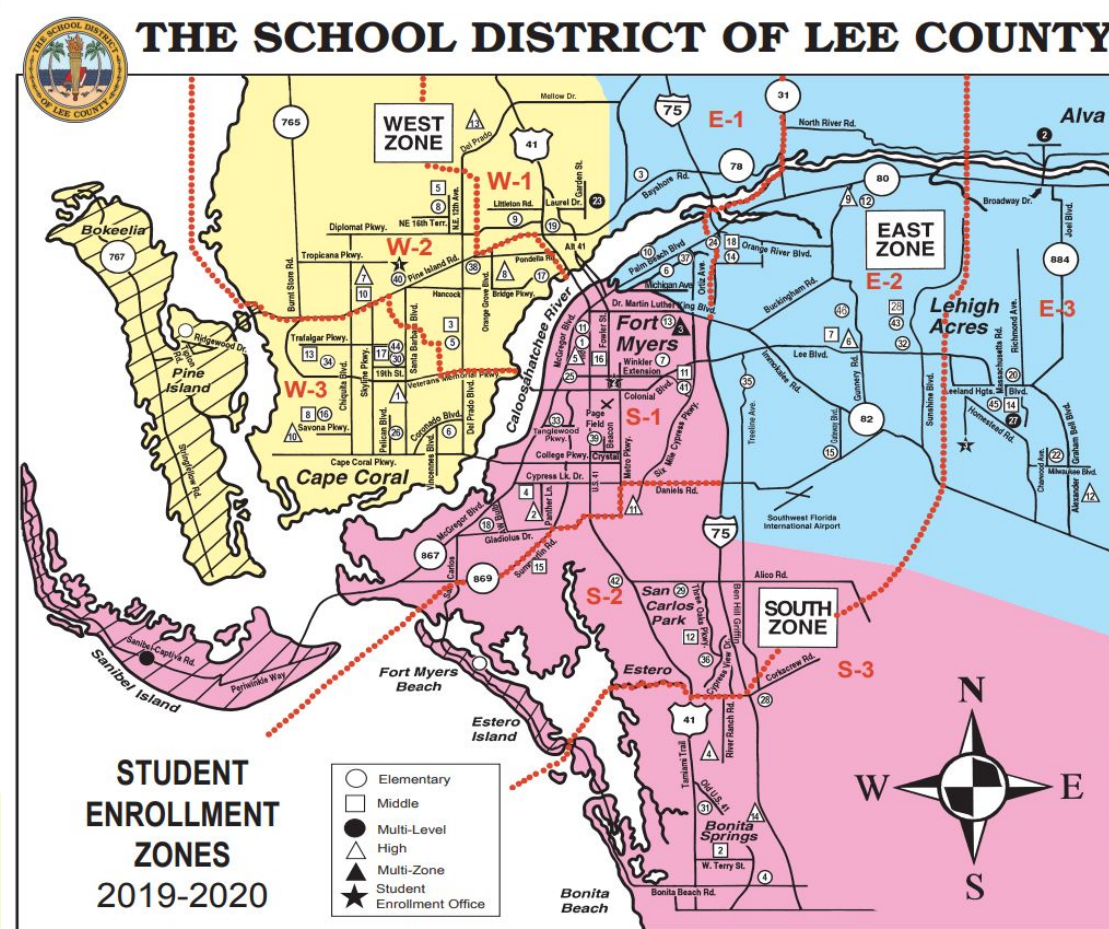
Public & Charter Schools

Start out looking at schools in your zone.

WEST ZONE Student Assignment Office	
Cape Coral	1
Elementary Schools	
Caloosa (U)	5
Cape	6
Diplomat (U)	8
Gulf	16
Hancock Creek	17
Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. (U)	40
J. Colin English (IB) (U)	19
Littleton (U)	9
NFM Academy for the Arts (K-8) (A) (U)	23
Patriot	44
Pelican	26
Skyline	30
Trafalgar (U)	34
Tropic Isles	38
Middle Schools	
Caloosa (CA)	3
Challenger	17
Diplomat	5
Gulf	8
Mariner (IB)	10
NFM Academy for the Arts (K-8) (A) (U)	23
Trafalgar	13
High Schools	
Cape Coral (IB)	1
Ida S. Baker (CAP)	10
Island Coast (CAP)	13
Mariner (CAP)	7
North Fort Myers (A) (CA)	8

SOUTH ZONE Student Assignment Office	
Fort Myers	2
Elementary Schools	
Allen Park	1
Bonita Springs (A) (U)	4
Colonial (U)	7
Edison Park (A)	11
Franklin Park (U)	13
Heights (IB)	18
Orangewood	25
Pinewoods	28
Ray V. Pottorf	41
Rayma C. Page (U)	42
San Carlos Park (A) (U)	29
Spring Creek (U)	31
Tanglewood	33
Three Oaks	36
Villas	39
Middle Schools	
Bonita Springs (A) (CA)	2
Cypress Lake (A)	4
Fort Myers Middle Academy (U)	16
Lexington (IB)	15
Paul Laurence Dunbar	11
Three Oaks (U)	12
High Schools	
Bonita Springs (9th & 10th grades only) (FC)-S2 & S3 Only	14
Cypress Lake (A) (CAP)	2
Dunbar Zone Magnet (IB/S)	3
Estero (CA)	4
Fort Myers (IB)	5
South Fort Myers (C) (CAP)	11

EAST ZONE Student Assignment Office	
Lehigh Acres	3
Elementary Schools	
Alva (K-8)	2
Bayshore (U)	3
Edgewood Academy (A) (U)	10
G. Weaver Hipps	45
Gateway	15
Harns Marsh	43
James Stephens Academy (U)	6
Lehigh	20
Manatee (U)	14
Mirror Lakes (U)	22
Orange River (U)	24
River Hall (U)	12
Sunshine	32
Tice (FL)	37
Tortuga Preserve (U)	46
Treeline (U)	35
Veterans Park (K-8) (A) (U)	27
Middle Schools	
Alva (K-8)	2
Harns Marsh (CA) (STEAM) (U)	28
Lehigh Acres (CA) (STEAM) (U)	14
Oak Hammock (A) (U)	18
Varsity Lakes (U)	7
Veterans Park (K-8) (A) (U)	27
High Schools	
Dunbar (IB/S)	3
East Lee County (C) (CA)	12
Lehigh Senior (A) (CA)	6
Riverdale (IB)	9



(A) Arts Program; (C) Comprehensive Program; (CA) Cambridge Program; (CAP) AP Capstone; (FC) FGCU Collegiate; (FL) Foreign Language; (IB) International Baccalaureate; (IB/S) IB/STEM; (STEAM) Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math; (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering, Math; (U) this school has a uniform clothing policy



Public & Charter Schools

The District's open enrollment system gives families choices of schools based on their zone. During the 2017-2018 open enrollment period:

85%
OF FAMILIES
received their
FIRST
Choice School

96%
OF FAMILIES
received 1 of
their **TOP 3**
CHOICES

MORE THAN 44% of families do **NOT** choose the school closest to **THEIR HOME**



Public & Charter Schools

1. Is it true that my child will have a worse chance of getting into their 1st choice school if I stay at MSFM for Kindergarten and then apply to public school for first grade?
 1. I haven't heard conflicting information from both former parents and district personnel. I don't have a definitive answer.
2. Will my child's kindergarten year credits from MSFM transfer to the public and other private schools for kindergarten.
 1. 100% Yes. We are triple accredited and our certificate of completion of kindergarten is accepted everywhere.
3. School Choice Lottery Tips
 1. Don't freak out if you don't get your first choice. I have heard from families of children as far down as 50th in line getting into their first choice school a few weeks into the start of the school year.
 2. Go visit the school that you want in person and introduce yourself to the administration. Be polite and kind. **Local administrators do have some control over who gets in their school** especially when wait lists are involved and there is a lot of shuffling around the first few weeks of school. All things equal, administrators want actively involved parents who often have better-behaved children who succeed academically.



The District's student open enrollment system gives families choices of schools based on their zone. During the 2019-2020 open enrollment period:

89%
OF FAMILIES
received their
FIRST
Choice School

98%
OF FAMILIES
received 1 of
their **TOP 3**
CHOICES

MORE THAN 47% of families do **NOT** choose the school closest to **THEIR HOME**

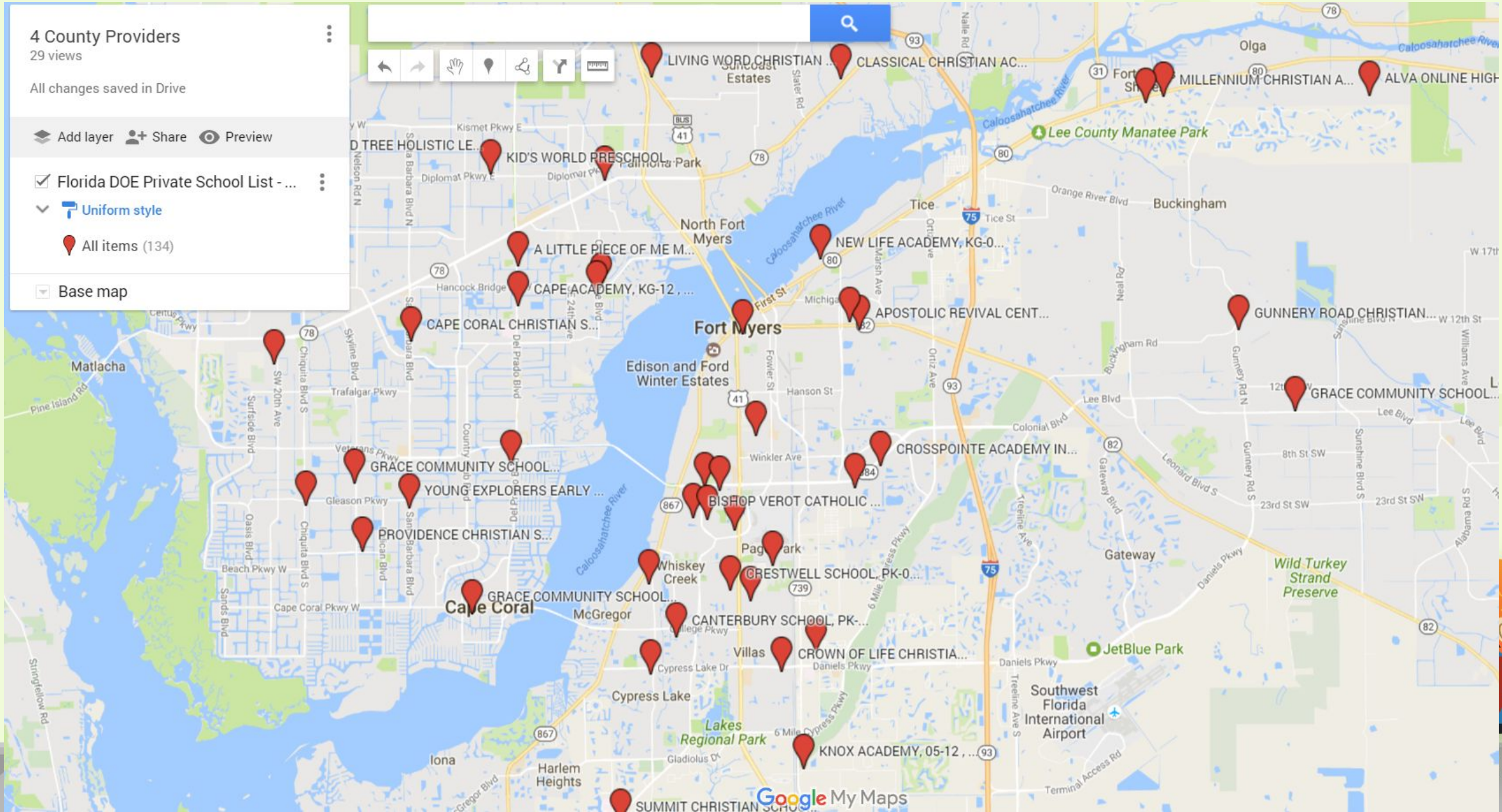


Other Private Schools

- The single best indicator of quality is accreditation. Many private schools are not accredited. Any accreditation will do, but some are better than others. Generally speaking, the religious schools accreditation groups have the lowest standards, while the secular national-level (NCPSEA) and regional-level (SACS-CASI/AdvancedEd) have the highest accreditation standards.
- So, start by looking at other accredited schools.
- Second most important is speaking with current parents at the school.



Other Private Schools



Other Private Schools



School Name	Mc Kay	FTC	Gardiner	Religious	Denomination	Grade Levels	Pre-K	Kinder garden	Total Enrollment	Accreditation
A LITTLE PIECE OF ME MONTESSORI ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		PK-08	9	3	34	
ALVA ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL	No	No	No	No		KG-12	0	0	2	
APOSTOLIC REVIVAL CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	No	No		PK-06	2	8	22	
BISHOP VERO T CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	CATHOLIC	09-12	0	0	666	SACS/CAS
CANTERBURY SCHOOL	No	No	No	No		PK-12	37	24	632	FCIS SACS/CAS
CAPE ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		03-12	0	0	62	NIPSA
CAPE CORAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL INC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	KG-12	0	5	102	
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY INC.	No	No	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	KG-12	0	4	145	FCCPSA, SACS/CAS
CRESTWELL SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	No	No		PK-08	19	18	191	AISF, SACS/CAS
CROSSPOINTE ACADEMY INC.	No	No	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	KG-12	0	2	21	FCCPSA
CROWN OF LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	LUTHERAN	PK-04	39	8	59	
DE LASALLE ACADEMY OF FORT MYERS	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		01-12	0	0	136	
DISCOVERY DAY ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		PK-06	65	24	163	SACS/CAS
EBENEZER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 3	No	No	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	PK-12	1	5	32	
EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	PK-12	246	56	1007	FACCS
FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	PK-08	32	16	162	FCIS
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	LUTHERAN	PK-10	70	16	183	FLGA-LCMS
GRACE CLASSICAL ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	KG-08	0	4	32	
GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	No	No	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	PK-01	20	6	32	
GUNNERY ROAD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	BAPTIST	PK-12	40	19	150	
HIBERNIAN PRIVATE SCHOOL	Yes	No	Yes	No		08-12	0	0	22	NIPSA
ICOC CHRISTIAN PREPARATORY ACADEMY	No	No	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	PK-KG	0	0	0	
KID LIFE ACADEMY ELEMENTARY	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	KG-08	0	7	30	
KID'S WORLD PRESCHOOL	No	No	No	No		PK-PK	93	0	93	
LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		KG-12	0	4	59	
MAIMONIDES HEBREW DAY SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	JEWISH	PK-09	10	3	33	
MILLENNIUM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	KG-05	0	3	6	
MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF FT. MYERS	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		PK-KG	60	6	66	AMS AISF, NCPA
NEW LIFE ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	PK-12	16	10	77	
NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	BAPTIST	KG-12	0	4	49	
NICAEA ACADEMY OF CAPE CORAL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	PK-12	4	2	27	
PEACE BY PIECE INC	Yes	No	Yes	No		PK-04	10	4	20	
PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	PRESBYTERIAN	PK-05	19	10	67	CSF
RENAISSANCE SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		PK-06	28	1	40	SACS/CAS
ROCK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	No	No	No	Yes	PENTECOSTAL	KG-12	0	2	14	
SACRED HEART OF JESUS PRIVATE SCHOOL	No	No	No	Yes	CATHOLIC	01-12	0	0	89	
SAINT ANDREW CATHOLIC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	CATHOLIC	PK-08	37	28	265	FCCAP
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	CATHOLIC	PK-08	42	46	474	FCCAP
SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	LUTHERAN	PK-08	33	24	311	FLGA-LCMS SACS/C
SONSHINE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	PK-12	26	8	241	
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	No	Yes	No	Yes	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	KG-12	0	28	493	ACS, SACS/CAS
SUMMIT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	PRESBYTERIAN	PK-08	39	14	159	CSF
TEMPLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	BAPTIST	PK-12	30	7	103	FACCS
VIRTUS ACADEMY	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		PK-05	2	2	5	
WILOSTAR 3D ACADEMY	No	No	No	No		06-12	0	0	150	SACS/CAS
YOUNG EXPLORER EARLY LEARNING CENTER	Yes	Yes	No	No		PK-05	39	13	68	

Home School

- There are requirements. Start here:
<http://www.leeschools.net/homeschool>
- There are several meet-up / support groups that meet locally and tons of them online. Lot's of good advice out there.



Staying at Our School for Kindergarten

- Academics
- Happy and confident children
- Scholarships Available – Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
- Kindergarten program overview
- Benefits of being a “third-year” kindergarten student



Staying at Our School for Kindergarten

Academics

- While we don't focus on summative testing (only done once at the end of the year), our standardized test scores from the last two years are outstanding.
- Most common complaint we hear is that students are bored in kindergarten or first grade when they leave.
- We have never received a complaint that a student who left our school was unprepared for the school that they went to next.

Montessori School of Fort Myers

Iowa Test of Basis Skills Scores - Kindergarteners

Class Average Test Scores

	2015-2016		2016-2017		2018-2019	
	Grade Equivalent	National Percentile Rank	Grade Equivalent	National Percentile Rank	Grade Equivalent	National Percentile Rank
Vocabulary	2.5	91%	1.4	88%	2.1	81%
Reading: Words	1.0	78%	2.9	99%	2.3	93%
Reading: Comprehension	2.9	99%	2.5	99%	N/A	N/A
Reading Total	1.5	94%	2.6	99%	1.8	97%
Word Analysis	1.9	91%	1.3	71%	2.3	93%
Listening	1.8	96%	0.8	50%	1.1	73%
Language	2.0	98%	1.6	91%	1.1	63%
Mathematics	2.0	99%	1.1	88%	1.7	79%
Core Total	2.2	97%	1.4	92%	1.4	83%

Note: Class averages were taken from all Kindergarteners who took the exam.

Published 1/14/2020



Staying at Our School for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Program Overview

- 2020-2021 kindergarten enrollment: We have 15 PreK4 students right now, we expect several to stay for kindergarten and we will likely enroll a few to from outside our school to start for kindergarten in Fall 2020.
- 2020-2021 calendar and tuition fees will be posted to the website soon and full re-enrollment information will be announced in a few weeks. No significant changes are expected from the current school year.
- Fall 2019 Re-enrollment deadline will be February 28, 2019.



Staying at Our School for Kindergarten

Top Benefits of Staying for the Third Year (Kindergarten)

1. **Love of Learning.** Does your child love school and can't wait to go every day? If so, consider yourself lucky. Why tinker with a winning school situation when so many families are frustrated and disappointed?
2. **Leadership & Role Modeling.** Your child has waited for two years to be one of the five year old leaders of her class. The kindergartners are looked up to as role models for the younger students, and most children eagerly await their opportunity to play this role.
3. **Advanced Curriculum.** While most public kindergarten classrooms will be working on recognizing letters and numbers, our kindergartner read (Bob books, Explode the Code, research books from our library) and write books (little hand-made research project booklets).
4. **No Limits on Advancement.** Montessori classrooms are set up so that your child can continue to progress at her own pace. In traditional kindergarten, she will have to wait while the other children begin to catch up.
5. See handout for many more reasons!



Questions for me?

Our primary Teachers are up next to tell you details about our kindergarten program...



The Kindergarten Program

Hear from our primary lead teachers...

