PAX

1. Can I choose where my child goes to school? What are my school options?

In Maryland, where you live determines where you go to public school; private school enrollment, however, is not subject to boundary lines.  Each public school system has a school locator link where parents can enter an address to determine what school the residence is zoned to attend.  In St. Mary’s, visit <https://www.smcps.org/dss/capital-planning/find-a-school-by-your-address>, in Calvert County, the link is provided through the registration site at <https://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/student_services/student_services_program_information/online_registration>

The School Liaison can provide a list of schools in the area.

1. Is Pre-K available?

Pre-K for 3 and 4 year olds is available in both St. Mary’s and Calvert County schools. According to Maryland State Department of Education, eligible students for public school pre-K must be of the designated age and come from families with economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Once income eligible students have been placed, schools may offer seats to other applicants based on locally established criteria warranting early admission to school. Many private schools also offer pre-K programs that do not have income requirements for admission. For additional information and a list of private schools, contact the School Liaison Officer.

1. What programs/services are available for Gifted/Talented?

Programs for students identified as Gifted/Talented are offered in all public schools.  Details on both elementary and secondary Gifted programs in St. Mary's County Public Schools can be found at <https://www.smcps.org/dci>; for Calvert County Public Schools, visit <https://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/instruction/instruction_program_information/advanced_learning_program>.

1. Where do I register for school if I am waitlisted for housing / staying in temporary lodging?

If you are waitlisted for housing, it is recommended you contact the housing office to request a letter indicating your waitlist status for a specific housing area along with the expected move-in date.  Most of the time this is all the schools need to proceed with registration.  Note, if your temporary lodging/housing is outside the boundary lines of the school, you will be responsible for providing transportation until you move into housing and bus transportation is available.  If you have questions or issues, please contact the School Liaison.

1. What options are there for before and after care?

Childcare is offered through the installation CYP program, however there can be a waitlist so families seeking care are encouraged to sign up through [www.militarychildcare.com](http://www.militarychildcare.com)  as soon as they have orders to NAS Patuxent River.  Before and aftercare programs are also offered at some elementary schools.  In St. Mary’s County, a list of school sites and registration information is available at <https://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/schoolagecare/>; in Calvert County information is available at <https://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=123424&pageId=5044682>.