



DHSP 2023 Summer Programing Frequently Asked Questions

What are the eligibility requirements to apply to the DHSP Summer Programs Lottery?

- Children must be Cambridge residents or the children of City of Cambridge employees.
- Children must be attending JK through 8th grades in the current 2022 - 2023 academic year.
 1. Current JK – 4th grades for Community School Camps
 2. Current 3rd – 8th grades for Cambridge Youth Programs

How do I enter the DHSP Summer Lottery?

- The DHSP Summer Lottery will be open **Monday, February 13 through Friday, March 10.**
- Families will apply online through the City's Viewpoint platform. The link will be available on February 13.
- If you have questions or need assistance with your application, please contact. askdhsp@cambridgema.gov or call **617-349-6200**
- If you would like in-person assistance with your application
 1. DHSP staff will be available to help at 51 Inman St. 3rd floor Monday February 13, February 27, and March 6 from 5 – 7:30 p.m.
 2. DHSP staff will be available at
 - Peabody School 70 Rindge Ave., Wednesday March 1, from 6– 7:30 p.m.
 - Moore Youth Center 12 Gilmore St., Thursday March 2, from 6– 7:30 p.m.
 - Frisoli Youth Center 61 Willow St., Tuesday March 7, from 6– 7:30 p.m.
 - Morse School 40 Granite St., Wednesday March 8 from 6– 7:30 p.m.
 3. Cambridge Public Schools will be hosting an event for families on Saturday, March 4 from 1- –4:30 p.m. at the King Open/CSUS building. DHSP staff will be available to help families fill out their application.

Can I sign up for a single week of DHSP Summer Programs?

Yes, but only for the week of July 5-7. DHSP Summer Programs are offered in 2-week sessions all other dates.

Can my child attend half days in the DHSP Summer Programs?

No, the programs are full day and do not offer half day options. The programs and their activities run 8:30a.am-5:30p.m. daily.

Do you have any summer programming the last two weeks of August?

No. All DHSP summer programs end August 18, 2023.

What types of activities are provided in the summer programs? Is there swimming?

Please see the sample schedule for Community Schools Camps and for Summer Youth Programs. The programs do go swimming, either through lessons or free swim at local pools.

WEEK OF _____

Community School Summer Camp
Grades: K - 4th

Sample Weekly Schedule 2023

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-9:00	Student Drop-Off	Student Drop-Off	Student Drop-Off	Student Drop-Off	Student Drop-Off
9:00-9:30	Morning Snack	Morning Snack	Morning Snack	Morning Snack	Morning Snack
9:30-10:00	Morning Circle	Morning Circle	Morning Circle	Morning Circle	Gymnastics Specialist
10:00-10:30	Name Tag Art	Pinwheel Art Project	Field Trips to parks, museums, and activities 10a.m. - 4:00p.m. Lunch taken on field trip	Library Visit	Morning Circle
10:30-11:00	Soccer at the Field	Swim lessons @ Goldstar Pool (day/time vary by site)			STEAM Specialist
11:00-11:30	STEAM Activity			Dance Party	Art Project
11:30-12:00					
12:00-12:30	Lunch & Playtime	Lunch & Playtime		Lunch & Playtime	Lunch & Playtime
12:30-1:00	Quiet Time	Quiet Time		Quiet Time	Quiet Time
1:00-1:30	Drama Specialist	Building Station Rotation		Sensory Exploration	Fun Friday Activity & Weekly Camp Awards
1:30-2:00				Music Specialist	
2:00-2:30	Board Games & Freeplay	Organized Outside Activity		Cooking Project	Three Craft Stations
2:30-3:00					
3:00-3:30	Group Games	DIY Birdhouse	Home-Based Yoga	Computer Activity	
3:30-4:00					
4:00-4:30	Afternoon Snack & Sprinklers	Afternoon Snack & Sprinklers	Classroom Games & Stations	Afternoon Snack & Sprinklers	Afternoon Snack & Sprinklers
4:30-5:00					
5:00-5:30	Quiet Activities & Pickup	Quiet Activities & Pickup	Quiet Activities & Pickup	Quiet Activities & Pickup	Quiet Activities & Pickup
Lead Instructor:			Instructor:		

A printed weekly schedule will be available every Monday morning

*Please pack a bathing suit, towel and water bottle every day- Please apply sunscreen every day before camp

Week of _____

Summer Youth Programs
Grades: Rising 4th - 8th

Sample Weekly Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8:30-9:15	Arrival & Breakfast	Arrival & Breakfast	Arrival & Breakfast	Arrival & Breakfast	Arrival & Breakfast	
9:15-10:00	Group Game and Community Meeting	Group Game and Community Meeting	Group Game and Community Meeting	Group Game and Community Meeting	Group Game and Community Meeting	
10:00-12:00	Community & Leadership Groups (Pre-teen)	Community & Leadership Groups (Pre-teen)	Field Trip Day! 10:00a.m - 4:30p.m. Lunch and Snack brought on trip	Community & Leadership Groups (Pre-teen)	Community & Leadership Groups (Pre-teen & Middle)	
12:00-12:30	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	
12:30-2:00	Community & Leadership Groups (Middle)	Community & Leadership Groups (Middle)		Community & Leadership Groups (Middle)	Friday-week in review	
2:00-5:30	2:00-3:00 Workshops/specialist blocks	2:00-4:00 Workshops/specialist blocks (Snack in Workshop)		2:00-4:00 Workshops/specialist blocks (Snack in Workshop)	1:00-2:30 Sport o' the Week Finals	
3:00-3:30	Snack					2:30-3:00 Snack
3:30-4:30	Workshops/specialist blocks				Friday Special workshops Weekly Showcase	
4:30-5:30	Workshops/specialist blocks	4:00-5:30 Sport o' the Week			4:00-5:30 Sport o' the Week	Group Game
5:30-6:00	Free Time and Dismissal	Free Time and Dismissal		Free Time and Dismissal	Free Time and Dismissal	Free Time and Dismissal

My child is going into Kindergarten and has not completed Junior Kindergarten. Are they still eligible?

No. DHSP Community Schools Summer Camp Programs are designed for children who have completed Junior Kindergarten so that developmentally they are prepared for camp programming, curriculum, and experience.

What happens if my child is placed in the waiting pool?

Limited placement from the waiting pool will be made April 3rd - June 30th by lottery number if spots become available and families will be notified through Viewpoint on a rolling basis.

How much does it cost to participate?

2023 DHSP SUMMER PROGRAMS TUITION RATES & SCALE

Household size	Household Income Range	Household Income Range	Household Income Range	Household Income Range	Household Income Range
2	<\$72,931	\$72,931-\$89,760	\$89,761-\$112,200	\$112,201-\$134,640	>\$134,641
3	<\$82,031	\$82,031-\$100,960	\$100,961-\$126,200	\$126,201-\$151,440	>\$151,441
4	<\$91,131	\$91,131-\$112,160	\$112,161-\$140,200	\$140,201-\$168,240	>\$168,241
5	<\$98,476	\$98,476-\$121,200	\$121,201-\$151,500	\$151,501-\$181,800	>\$181,801
6	<\$105,756	\$105,756-\$130,160	\$130,161-\$162,700	\$162,701-\$195,240	>\$195,241
Tuition (per child)	\$60 per session (July 10-Aug 18)	\$150 per session (July 10-Aug 18)	\$250 per session (July 10-Aug 18)	\$400 per session (July 10-Aug 18)	\$600 per session (July 10-Aug 18)
*Mini-Session (per child)	\$18 (July 5-7)	\$45 (July 5-7)	\$75 (July 5-7)	\$120 (July 5-7)	\$180 (July 5-7)

*Mini-session is only 3 days, with prorated tuition rate.

Tuition is free for summer 2023 in Cambridge Youth Programs for 13-year-olds.

If you were a participant of a DHSP program, your tuition will be based on your current verified income.

Families can request a financial review if experiencing a hardship.

Can I apply for a scholarship?

Instead of offering scholarships, which put a burden on people applying for them, camp tuition is based on a sliding scale according to family household size and income.

Can I enter more than one child through the same application?

Yes, you need only one Viewpoint account to apply for siblings or children who live in the same household.

In the online application, you will be asked how many children in your household are applying for DHSP Summer Lottery. If you select more than one child, additional fields will appear where you can fill out specific information for each child. All fields must be filled out for each child for them to be eligible for the lottery.

After submitting your application, each child's eligibility and application will be reviewed by DHSP staff. You will receive separate notifications and letters for each child that you include in your application.

When and how will I find out if my child has a seat at a Summer Program?

Families whose child is ineligible to enter the lottery will be notified within a few days of submitting their application. Families whose child is eligible to enter the lottery will be notified starting the week of March 27th whether their child is offered a seat in a Summer Program or has been added to the waiting pool.

When notification letters are available, families will be notified by email through the Viewpoint platform. Families can also log into their Viewpoint account to check the status of their application. If your contact information changes after your application is submitted, please contact us at askdhsp@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-6200 to update it.

Can I apply after the application window closes?

Applications submitted after the lottery deadline, March 10th, will be added to the waiting pool.

Can I make changes to my application after I have submitted it?

Changes cannot be made by the applicant once an application has been submitted. DHSP staff member can help make a change. If you need to update any information, please contact us at askdhsp@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-6200.

Why are you doing a Lottery for DHSP Summer Programs?

DHSP Summer Programs are very popular and every year we receive more applicants than there are available spots. We have learned that the first-come, first-served registration model negatively impacts our ability to equitably serve all families. We have therefore adjusted our registration process and enrollment model to better prioritize equitable access.

What are the criteria for each lottery preference?

- **Priority Income Preference:** household income is 65% or less of Area Median Income (AMI)
- **Sibling Preference:** child whose sibling is matched in the lottery or offered a seat from the waiting pool. Siblings of children who are offered a camp seat through the lottery are prioritized for a seat, but not guaranteed one.
- **Equitable Access (Hardship) Preference:** Eligible applicants are those who meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Experiencing homelessness
 - In the District's foster care system

Designated Seats: A set amount of available seats at each site and each grade level are designated for a specific group of children with priority income preference. Only applicants that have applied through Viewpoint and meet the criteria of that specific group are entered into the lottery for the designated seats. All applicants (including those that meet the criteria for the specific group) are entered into the lottery for the remaining general seats.

Applications are reviewed so that eligible students are considered first for the designated seats. If a match can't be made, they will be placed in the waiting pool for designated seats and entered into the lottery for the general seats.

If the designated seats do not fill in the lottery, they will not be automatically filled with applicants outside of the defined group. This allows a program to ensure the seats remain open for post-lottery applicants who meet the specific group criteria.

What are my child's chances of getting into camp?

This is an impossible question to answer with 100 percent certainty, as it depends on:

- 1) How many applications DHSP receives for each grade level, location, and session.
- 2) Whether your child meets one or more priority factors

Is it likely that children in the waiting pool will be offered a seat?

Not all students who are offered placement at DHSP Summer Program accept the offer. As openings become available at each grade level, DHSP offers a seat to the next child in the waiting pool. You will be notified by telephone, email, and through the Viewpoint platform if an opening becomes available for your child.

We expect that all camp seats will be filled by early June.

Will transportation to DHSP Summer Programs be provided by DHSP?

No, families are responsible for getting their children to and from camp.

Where can I find information about other Cambridge summer programs if my child is not eligible?

Find It [Cambridge](http://www.finditcambridge.org) (All Ages) www.finditcambridge.org
[Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Programs](http://www.cambridgema.gov/Services/mayorssummeryouthemploymentprogram) (Ages 14 through the summer after completing high school) www.cambridgema.gov/Services/mayorssummeryouthemploymentprogram or email msyepapp@cambridgema.gov