



SchoolStart Westland

Guide for parents and carers

Everything you need to know about applying for your child at a primary school in the Westland region

Application year 2026-2027 edition



Choosing a primary school

Public and special-character schools

In the Netherlands we have public schools and special-character schools. A school based on a particular worldview or religion is called a special-character school. Public education is not based on any religion or worldview.

The Westland region has 43 primary schools. These schools differ in their teaching method, approach and what they offer.

Want to know what a school stands for? At www.scholenopdekaart.nl you can view and compare schools. At www.schoolstartwestland.nl you will find all schools in the Westland region on the map, per village.

Good to know

Some schools expect more applications than there are places. At these schools, a lottery is then held.

Suitable education for every child

The goal of suitable education ("passend onderwijs") is to offer children education that fits them. Children receive extra support when needed. When you apply for your child at a primary school, it is important that the school knows what extra support your child needs and what the school of your choice can offer in this area.

Basic support and extra support

The basic support a school offers is described in the support profile of the school. The extra support may differ per school. The support profile can be found on the website. This information helps you choose a suitable school for your child. Every school offers basic support. This includes for example education for children with dyslexia or ADHD. Adjustments for highly gifted children often also fall under basic support.

For some pupils extra support is needed. This is the case, for example, with a physical disability (such as hearing or wheelchair use), a developmental delay, behavioural problems or a chronic illness. This is explained further in the extra support chapter.

Applying at the primary school

Apply on time

When your child is 4 years old, they may go to school. To give all children in the Westland region an equal chance of good education, almost all primary schools within the municipality of Westland use an

application procedure. Before your child's 3rd birthday you will receive information from the municipality of Westland about the application procedure.

It is important that you apply on time. Before applying, it is important to have oriented yourself on the different primary schools. You can do this by contacting the school and using the opportunities the school offers. These may be open mornings or information days. This differs per school.

Once you have chosen a school, you can apply digitally via the website www.schoolstartwestland.nl. Via this website you will be guided to the application module of Onderwijs Transparant. There children can be applied via a secure environment. During this application you can indicate your school preferences.

When applying we recommend you fill in several schools on the application form. It may be that the first-choice school reaches its maximum number of places. If the school of your first preference cannot place your child, we will look at whether the school of second or third preference can place your child.

Fixed application periods

In the Westland region fixed moments are used when you can apply for your child. There are four application periods per school year. You apply for your child in the period in which your child turns 3.

Period	Child born between	Apply in
Period 1	1 October and 31 December	15 December - 31 December (3 years later)
Period 2	1 January - 31 March	15 March - 31 March (3 years later)
Period 3	1 April - 30 June	15 June - 30 June (3 years later)
Period 4	1 July - 30 September	15 September - 30 September (3 years later)

Equal chance of placement

For the chance of admission it does not matter whether you submit your application form on the first or the last day of the application period. All children applied within one of the application periods at one of the primary schools working with the SchoolStart Westland admission policy are treated as if they applied simultaneously.

Whether there is room depends on a number of factors such as: the maximum number of available places per school year, the number of applications, and the priority rules applied. If your child cannot be placed directly at the school of your first preference, the matching and lottery system will determine at which other school your child can be placed.

After the application period has closed, you will receive a message within one week about where your child can be placed.

Lottery

How does the lottery work?

If a school receives more applications than there are places available, a lottery is held first. This lottery takes place in the 1st week after the application period closes.

For children who are not selected in the school lottery, it is immediately checked whether they can be placed at another school on their preference list. First the second-choice school is considered, and if necessary the third-choice school.

It may happen that your preferred schools receive more applications than there are places. In that case it is possible that your child cannot be placed at any preferred school. Then the coordinator of SchoolStart Westland will contact you. The coordinator will explain the placement improvement round. This is held twice a year (in June after the 1st and 2nd application periods, and in December after the 3rd and 4th application periods).

Please note

In all cases where your child cannot be placed at one of your preferred schools, the coordinator of SchoolStart Westland will contact you to consult with you on how to still get your child placed at one of the primary schools within the Westland region.

Lottery and priority rules

Sometimes primary schools receive more applications than there are places. In that case the school first applies the priority rules.

The primary schools in the Westland region apply the following priority rules:

1. A brother or sister already attends the school.

Some of the schools also apply the following priority rule (check the website of the relevant primary school):

2. Before turning 3, the child attends at least 4 months, 2 half-days (8 hours) per week of a form of childcare located in the same building as the school of first preference.

Important

The priority rules are only applied if there are more applications than places available. When you want to use one of the priority rules, you also agree that the school may carry out a check to verify this information.

If you knowingly enter incorrect information on the application form, such as adding a priority rule without being entitled to it, the placement of your child will be reversed.

Hardship clause

In very exceptional cases the school boards may deviate from the rules. This is called the hardship clause. School boards only deviate from the rules in very special cases. You can ask the school board to use the hardship clause. For example if your child really has to attend the nearest school because of illness or physical limitation.

School boards discuss every application of the hardship clause together to reach a consistent way of placement. You can submit your request via contact@schoolstartwestland.nl.

Extra lottery round

If your child was not selected for the higher-preference school, there is the possibility to take part in the placement improvement round. This round is held twice a year (June and December). If your child is not placed at the first-choice school you receive an invitation to take part in this round with the aim of placement improvement. You indicate yourself whether or not you want to take part. During the extra lottery round the priority rules do not apply.

Going to school

Notice about the application

Within one week after the end of the application period you will receive notice whether your child can be placed at the first or a subsequent preferred school. If it turns out that you provided incorrect or incomplete information when applying for your child, a placement can still be reversed.

Enrolment

Together with the information about your child's placement you will receive an enrolment form. You must complete this form and return it within two weeks to the school where your child has been assigned a place. If you do not, the placement of your child will lapse.

You then have to wait until the end of the application year. At that point it is known which schools still have places available and you can apply for your child directly.

Extra support

When you apply for your child at a primary school, it is important that the school knows what extra support your child needs. If your child has difficulties with speech/language or may be behind in development, help has probably already been arranged. Please indicate this on the application form. The school will then investigate whether they can offer your child the right support. The school may take 4 extra weeks for this.

If your child may need extra support, you will be invited for a meeting. In that meeting it is discussed with you what extra support your child may need when they go to school. It is then examined whether the school you have chosen is the best place for your child and whether this school can provide the

support. Several experts may join this meeting. For example the suitable-education advisor from the cooperation network and/or others involved in your child's development.

If the school cannot offer the support, the school will help you find a school that can.

Frequently asked questions

At www.schoolstartwestland.nl you will find an extensive and up-to-date list of frequently asked questions about applying, the lottery, placement, email reminders, extra support and special situations. The online FAQ is continuously updated based on new situations and questions from parents.

Glossary

Apply

A written (digital form) request from the parents to apply.

Place

The available places (according to the criteria and procedure) are assigned to the applied children.

Enrol

The parent informs the school that they will use the assigned place.

Placement and lottery system

To place the children, the schools affiliated with SchoolStart Westland use an automatic matching and lottery system. When there are more places than applications, the children are placed at their first-choice school. When there are more applications than available places at a primary school, after applying the priority rules, a lottery is held. This lottery takes place fully digitally.

Cooperation network ("samenwerkingsverband")

Regular schools and special-education schools work together. Within the cooperation network they make agreements on how extra support is organised in the region. This offering must be comprehensive: all children in the region can get a suitable place.

School board

All schools have a school board. The school board is ultimately responsible for decisions related to the school and the education provided.

Any questions?

For questions about the application procedure please email contact@schoolstartwestland.nl.