

The Exploris School Lottery Policy

Lottery Selection

As required by G.S. 115C-218.45(h): During each period of enrollment, the charter school shall enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. If there are more applications than spaces, the available spaces will be awarded by public lottery. Once enrolled, students are not required to reapply in subsequent enrollment periods; however, students who are placed on the waiting list must reapply for the lottery in subsequent school years.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a charter school may refuse admission to any student who has been expelled or suspended from a public school under G.S. 115C-390.5 through G.S. 115C-390.11 until the period of suspension or expulsion has expired.

Lottery Process

Applications for enrollment will be made available no later than November. All applications must be received by the first Friday in February in order to be considered for the school's lottery. All applications received after the Lottery deadline will be accepted and added directly to the enrollment waitlist in order of receipt. The Lottery is conducted on the first Friday of March. The date and location are made public so that anyone may attend. The lottery is conducted by an impartial third party in accordance with state standards and school priorities. Following the lottery, families are notified of their results. Upon filling all the available positions, the lottery continues through the entire pool of applicants to establish a waiting list.

Applications are completed online. Information can be found on the school's website on the Admissions page. Families must set up an online account, and must complete an application on that account for each child. The school shall establish a process for assisting families in completing an application upon request. Information about this assistance will be provided on the Admissions page.

Any student receiving an offer either through the initial lottery or through the waitlist will have a limited time to accept or decline the seat and complete the enrollment process. If offered the seat prior to the first day of school, the student must be present beginning the first day of school. Should the offer be declined, the open position will be offered to the next chronological applicant on the waiting list, and these guidelines will apply. Outlined below are the time limitations to accept or decline a seat:

- From date of posting lottery results until June 14: 7 days to accept or decline a seat for the upcoming school year and complete the enrollment process. The student must be present beginning the first day of school.
- From June 15 to the first day of the new school year: 2 days to accept or decline a seat for the upcoming school year and complete the enrollment process. The student must be present beginning the first day of school.
- Beginning with the first day of the new school year: 1 day to accept or decline a seat for the current school year and complete the enrollment process. The student must be present the following day of school.

Parents/Guardians must complete all enrollment materials required within the time limit set above to secure the seat at The Exploris School. Should an applicant decline enrollment, or fail to submit the required enrollment materials by the deadline, the seat will be offered to the next student on the waitlist, and the waitlist will be updated accordingly.

STUDENTS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE BEGINNING THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. If your student is not present on the first day of school, the school will make reasonable efforts to contact the student's family via phone and/or email. If this outreach does not result in the student being in attendance, the seat will be offered to the next student on the waitlist.

Lottery Preference

The charter school shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, gender, gender identity or expression, or disability. Except as otherwise provided by law or the mission of the school as set out in the charter, the school shall not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability. Priority enrollment will be applied to certain applicants as detailed below.

Admission Priorities

Admission priorities are detailed in order below. If there are more applicants than spaces, the available spaces will be awarded by public lottery with priority in the following order:

1. Children or grandchildren of current eligible staff - Should a full-time staff member be hired or custody is awarded after the annual lottery has occurred, space will be made available for said staff member's children or grandchildren.
2. Siblings of students enrolled at the time of the lottery - priority for admission or placement on the waitlist if applications are submitted prior to the lottery deadline.
3. Children or grandchildren of current Board members - receive priority for admission or placement on the waitlist if applications are submitted prior to the lottery deadline.
4. Siblings of newly enrolled students - When a student is offered admission, that student's siblings will receive priority for admission for the same school year behind those applicants with the priorities listed

above. Please note that when this lottery priority is applied to a sibling of a student whose family accepts enrollment, it will cause the waitlist order to change for all the remaining students on that grade level's waitlist. If seats are available in that grade level, students will be offered admission in waitlist order.

5. Economically Disadvantaged Students - Exploris will institute a priority lottery for remaining available seats in order to achieve and maintain a minimum of 25% of our students meeting the "Economically Disadvantaged" criteria, defined by meeting national Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) criteria. This priority only applies to the initial lottery selections and does not apply to the waitlist. Families will optionally self-identify for this lottery priority through the standard application. Family income will be verified upon enrollment.

6. All other applicants.

Siblings of students enrolled at the time of the lottery: It is the intent of Exploris to support whole families and create school community. All families with siblings of currently enrolled students must submit an application prior to the deadline. Siblings of enrolled students will receive priority for admission or waitlist, depending on the number of seats available, during the lottery process if their applications are received by the lottery application deadline.

If multiple birth siblings apply for admission to a charter school and a lottery is needed under G.S. 115C-238.29(g), (2), the charter school shall enter one surname into the lottery to represent all of the multiple-birth siblings. If the surname of the multiple-birth siblings is selected, then all of the multiple-birth siblings shall be selected.

Employees and Board of Directors: Exploris will limit to no more than 15% of the school's total enrollment priority admission to children and grandchildren of full-time employees and the charter school's Board of Directors.

With each lottery, the Director of Resources will work to identify the number of seats for the Economically Disadvantaged priority to make available per grade level in order to balance students admitted across grade levels, total seats available, and school resources.

Legal Reference: Article 14A of Chapter 115C, G.S. 115C-218

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