



ACHIEVEMENT PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Building a Foundation to Leave a Legacy

LOTTERY PROCEDURES & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Achievement Prep holding a lottery?

In accordance with the DC charter school law, all DC Public Charter Schools must hold a random public lottery to select new students if the total number of applicants for any grade level exceeds the number of spaces available on or before a specific deadline.

What is a lottery?

A lottery refers to the selection of applicants for enrollment by a random method such as the drawing of numbers from a container until all of the numbers in the container have been drawn. During the lottery, numbers assigned to each application are drawn in random order to fill the available spaces for each grade. Numbers assigned to the remainder of applications exceeding available spaces are placed on the school's waiting list.

Who is eligible to participate in the lottery?

Any student who is a resident of the District of Columbia is eligible to apply for enrollment in a DC Public Charter School.

Achievement Prep will continue to accept applications after the lottery. Applications received after the lottery date, will be placed on the waiting list in the order that they are received after those who participate in the lottery.

Is there any preference for sibling applicants to Achievement Prep?

The DC charter school law allows siblings of enrolled scholars to receive a preference in their admission to public charter schools. The intent of the sibling preference law is to keep families together.

The most common example of sibling preference is when a younger sibling of a child already enrolled wishes to attend the school. That younger sibling is automatically granted admission to the school (assuming space is available at that grade level) and need not apply through the lottery (assuming any other eligibility guidelines are met).

There are other instances of sibling preference, such as two siblings applying for new admission in the same year. In this example, if a lottery is in place by grade, then if the first sibling is selected, e.g. for grade 4, then the second sibling would automatically be allowed into grade 5, assuming space is available at that particular grade level.

Preference is given as follows:

- Any available seats are first given to siblings of scholars already currently attending the school and that will be in attendance the next year. **Admission of these siblings occurs following the close of applications but prior to the public lottery.**
- **However, if the number of new sibling applicants exceeds the available seats in any grade**, sibling applicants will participate in a separate sibling lottery to determine in what order siblings will be offered available spaces. The sibling lottery may also create a sibling waiting list if there are no spaces available in a specific grade. When a space opens up, the student at the top of the sibling waiting list for that grade is invited to enroll.
- Once the sibling waiting list is exhausted, students on the regular (non-sibling) waiting list are invited to enroll.
- When spaces become available, Achievement Prep will offer admission to families on the waiting list.

What defines a sibling?

- A sibling is defined as
 - Biological/adoptive sibling residing within the same household.
 - Stepsiblings residing in the same household.



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- Foster children residing within the same household.

Sibling notes:

- Stepsiblings living in different households are not considered for a sibling preference.
- Cousins, nieces, nephews and unrelated children sharing an address with the applicant are not considered siblings.
- An 8th grade scholar or alumna of the school with a sibling applying for the following year does not qualify as a sibling for entrance preference.
- Siblings of current students must submit an application to the school during the open enrollment period to be considered for sibling preference.
- Same grade siblings will be treated as one single applicant unit, rather than as multiple applicants. When that one applicant unit is drawn in the lottery, the same grade siblings will be numerically ordered on the waiting list or conditionally accepted dependent upon where in the lottery that applicant unit was drawn.
- In order for siblings to be considered under the sibling preference policy, parents/guardians must complete and submit a completed **Intent to Re-Enroll Form** for their current scholar by the required deadline, AND an **Application for Admission** for each sibling they wish to enroll in the school. If we do not receive an Intent to Re-Enroll Form for the current scholar and separate Admissions Application for each sibling, the sibling will not qualify for enrollment under the Sibling Preference Policy.

What happens after the lottery? How do I secure my child's space at Achievement Prep?

- Initial rounds of offers for admission are made by US Postal Mail, while any subsequent offers are made through contacting applicants by phone. (***Please make sure our office has your current contact information.***)
- When an offer for enrollment is made, Achievement Prep requires that applicants notify the school within two (2) days to indicate whether or not they will accept; if offers are declined or applicants do not respond within two (2) days, the spot is then offered to the next applicant on the waitlist.
- If your child is offered a space at Achievement Prep, you will be asked to complete Achievement Prep's Online Enrollment Form and submit certain required documents. Your child's enrollment is only complete when **all** of the registration materials have been received and DC residency confirmed by posted deadlines. (***Pay close attention to the deadlines; failure to return all of the registration materials by the deadlines will put your child's space at Achievement Prep at risk.***)
- PLEASE NOTE - It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to make sure that the contact information Achievement Prep has on file is accurate. If we are unable to contact you, you jeopardize your child's seat at Achievement Prep and we move on to the next child.
- If offered a seat for admission and it is initially declined by a family, Achievement Prep will offer the seat to another child and it is no longer available to you should you change your mind and you will need to reapply for admission.

What if I have more questions?

Additional information about Achievement Prep can be found on our website, www.apreacademy.org. If you would like to speak to someone, please call us at 202-562-1214.

Thank you for supporting Achievement Prep!