



Lottery

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Who can attend a charter school?

- All resident students of the state qualify for admission to a charter school
- A 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 the school
- If the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or the school, then students shall be selected on a random basis = Lottery

What is a lottery?

- A lottery is a random selection process by which applicants are admitted to the charter school
- Schools may have a single lottery or multiple lotteries depending on the school's application / enrollment periods

Exemptions from lottery

- A charter school that is oversubscribed generally must include in its lottery all eligible students for admission
- A charter school may exempt from the lottery students that fit within specific, set parameters in state law and federal CSP non-regulatory guidance

CSP exemptions - federal grant

- The following categories of students may be exempted from the lottery:
 - Siblings of students already admitted to or attending the same charter school;
 - Children of a charter school's founders;
 - Children of a charter school's teachers

(NOTE: the percentage of founder's children + teacher's children cannot exceed 5% of total enrollment)

UT exemptions – UCA 53A-1a-506

- a student of a parent who has actively participated in the development of the school (i.e., founder);
- siblings of students presently enrolled in the school;
- a student of a parent who is employed by the school;
- students articulating between charter schools offering similar programs that are governed by the same governing body;

UT exemptions – continued...

- students articulating from one charter school to another pursuant to an articulation agreement between the charter schools that is approved by the State Charter School Board;
- a student who resides within the school district in which the school is located;
- a student who resides within the municipality in which the school is located; and
- a student who resides within a two-mile radius from the school

Are there other preferences?

- Weighted lotteries (lotteries that give preference to one set of students over another) are permitted **only when they are necessary to comply** with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution, or applicable State law
- In addition, a charter school may weight its lottery in favor of students seeking to change schools under the public school choice provisions of ESEA Title I

Separate lotteries for...

- Girls and boys? No.
- Ethnicities? No.
- Languages? No.
- Socioeconomic status? No.
- Students with disabilities? No.

Question

- How can a school recruit teachers if there is only 5% total preference allowed for founders + teachers children?
- Advice: I would hold a school lottery for all students, including founders children and teachers children, first. Most likely the majority will get in through the lottery and, subsequently, sibling preference, and the 5% can be saved for those who don't.

Question

- How can a school ensure it has variety in its population?
- Advice: Outreach is very important to ensure that a school has students from different ethnicities, socioeconomic status, etc. Plan to have activities outside the neighborhood. Some schools have canvassed Wal Mart parking lots, put advertisements in utility bills, had meetings at multiple libraries, etc.

Advice

- Hold your lottery in public
- Ensure your lottery software works (if applicable)
- Set reasonable enrollment periods
- Communicate regularly with the district(s)
- Communicate regularly with parents
- Talk with other charter schools