

Northeast College Prep

Policy #591: ADMISSION POLICY

Adopted: 5/20/14

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I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth admission and enrollment procedures that the charter school utilizes.

II. General Statement of Policy

Admission to Northeast College Prep Charter School is open to all students, without regard to ability, race, religion, or any other factors, other than the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building.

III. Admission Limitations

A. The charter school, including its preschool or prekindergarten program established under Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.06, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), may limit admission to:

1. pupils within an age group or grade level;
2. pupils who are eligible to participate in the graduation incentives program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.68; or
3. residents of a specific geographic area in which the school is located when the majority of students served by the school are members of underserved populations.

B. The charter school shall comply with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, which prohibits educational institutions from discriminating against students based on a protected class including race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation or disability.

C. Charter schools must disseminate information about the school's offerings and enrollment procedures to families that reflect the diversity of Minnesota's population and targeted groups. Targeted groups include low-income families and communities, students of color, students at risk of academic failure, and students underrepresented in the school's student body relative to Minnesota's population. The school must document its dissemination activities in the school's annual report. The school's dissemination activities must be a component of the authorizer's performance review of the school.

IV. ENROLLMENT

- a. The charter school, including its preschool or prekindergarten program established under Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.06, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), shall enroll an eligible pupil who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In this case, pupils must be accepted by lot. The charter school must develop and publish, including on its website, a lottery policy and process that it must use when accepting pupils by lot.
- b. Admission to a charter school must be free to any eligible pupil who resides within the state. A charter school must give enrollment preference to a Minnesota resident pupil over pupils that do not reside in Minnesota. A charter school must require a pupil who does not reside in Minnesota to annually apply to enroll in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.11, paragraphs (a) to (f).
- c. The charter school must give enrollment preference to a sibling of an enrolled pupil and to a foster child of that pupil's parents and may give preference for enrolling children of the school's staff before accepting other pupils by lot. A staff member eligible for an enrollment preference for their child, including a foster child, must be an individual employed at the school whose employment is stipulated in advance to total at least 480 hours in a school calendar year.
- d. A person may not be admitted to the charter school (1) as a kindergarten pupil, unless the pupil is at least five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences; or (2) as a first grade student, unless the pupil is at least six years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences or has completed kindergarten; except that a charter school may establish and publish on its website a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age, consistent with the enrollment process in paragraphs A and B.
- e. Except as permitted in paragraphs D and I, the charter school, including its preschool or prekindergarten program established under Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.06, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), may not limit admission to pupils on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability and may not establish any criteria or requirements for admission that are inconsistent with this section.
- f. The charter school or any agent of the school must not distribute any services or goods, payments, or other incentives of value to students, parents, or guardians as an inducement, term, or condition of enrolling a student in a charter school.
- g. Once a student who resides in Minnesota is enrolled in the school in kindergarten through grade 12, or in the school's free preschool or prekindergarten program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.06, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), the student is considered enrolled in the school until the student formally withdraws, the school receives a request for the transfer of educational records from another school, the school receives a written election by the parent or legal guardian of the student withdrawing the student, or the student is expelled under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act in Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40 to 121A.56.

- h.** A charter school with at least 90 percent of enrolled students who are eligible for special education services and have a primary disability of deaf or hard-of-hearing may enroll prekindergarten pupils with a disability under Minnesota Statutes, section 126C.05, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), and must comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act under 34 Code of Federal Regulations, section 300.324, subsection (2), clause (iv).
- i.** A charter school serving at least 90 percent of enrolled students who are eligible for special education services and have a primary disability of deaf, deafblind, or hard-of-hearing may give enrollment preference to students who are eligible for special education services and have a primary disability of deaf, deafblind, or hard-of-hearing. The charter school may not limit admission based on the student's eligibility for additional special education services.

V. Admissions/Enrollment Procedures

- (1) Each school year, the application for the following year will be made available on or before January 1st.
- (2) Notice to Currently Enrolled Students & Staff Employed at the School: Prior to the beginning of the open enrollment period, the school provides notice of the open enrollment period to parents and staff so that siblings of currently enrolled students, foster children of parents of currently enrolled students, and children of staff may submit a timely application.
- (3) Application Processing. Each enrollment application received is date-stamped and also either time-stamped or sequentially stamped by number designating the order in which applications were received for each such date.
- (4) Admissions. All applications received during the open enrollment period will be accepted for enrollment unless more applications are received than the available enrollment established by the Board for the applicable grade(s). In this situation, all submitted applications for such grade(s) are placed in the lottery; however, siblings of currently enrolled students, foster children of parents of currently enrolled students, and children or foster children of staff employed in school have preference. Minnesota residents also have preference over non-Minnesota residents.
- (7) General Lottery: If the number of applications received during the open enrollment period exceeds available enrollment established by the Board for any grade (and after Siblings and Foster Siblings (of admitted students) who submitted timely applications are already admitted or establish a Sibling and Foster Sibling waiting list, and after all children or foster children of staff employed at the school who submitted a timely application are already admitted or establish a staff-children waiting list), the school conducts a general lottery. All applications for each such grade(s) (excluding applications from Siblings and Foster Siblings of already admitted students and excluding applications from children of staff employed at the school) received before the expiration of the open enrollment period are included in the general lottery. Students are admitted to the school in the order in which they are drawn in the lottery, as long as there is available enrollment as determined by the Board for the applicable grade(s). If all available enrollment in any grade is filled, the lottery continues and establishes the general waiting list for each such grade in the order drawn, until all applications are drawn. If a student is admitted through the general lottery and that student has one or more siblings or foster siblings in other grades also subject to a lottery, those siblings and/or foster siblings are moved

to the sibling waiting list and will be accepted as long as available enrollment as determined by the Board remains in the applicable grade(s).

- (8) Applications received after the open enrollment period expires are accepted as long as there is available enrollment as established by the Board in the applicable grade, in the order received. If, or once, there is no available enrollment in any grade, applications are added to the applicable waiting list for each such grade, in the order received.
- (9) The School conducts all lotteries through a method of random selection.
- (10) Out-of-state residents may enroll in the school if there is space available, but Minnesota residents have enrollment priority. The school may charge tuition at a rate agreed upon for services provided. Non-residents must reapply for enrollment annually, as re-enrollment is not guaranteed. The school is not obligated to admit students who are residents of other states.

VI. General Admission Procedures

- (1) **Order of Admission:** Siblings and Foster Siblings of Already Admitted Students, then Children or Foster Children of Staff Employed at the School, then other Minnesota resident students, then non-Minnesota resident students.
- (2) **No waiting list carryover from year to year:** Each waiting list is subject to a lottery and redrawn during each admission process each year.
- (3) **Multiple births** (twins, triplets, etc): Each student seeking admission completes an application (i.e. not one application for the family). In a lottery situation, each student receives an individual number/lot in the lottery.
- (4) **Lottery Grade Order:** Applicable lotteries occur from highest grade to lowest grade. For example, if a lottery is required in grades K and 3, the grade 3 lottery is conducted first, followed by the K lottery.
- (5) The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires that states and school districts eliminate barriers to immediate school enrollment for students experiencing homelessness. Students experiencing homelessness must be allowed to enroll in school immediately, even if they are unable to provide records normally required for enrollment. The school will work with the student, family, or legal guardian to support enrollment and obtain any necessary records.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
 Minn. Stat. § 124E.11 (Admission Requirements and Enrollment)
 Minn. Stat. § 124E.17 (Charter School Information)
 Minn. Stat. § 363A.13 (Educational Institution)