

The Exploris School Application and 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.

Enrollment Application Time Period

Requested applications for the upcoming school are available on the school's website, and can be mailed or electronically sent upon request, beginning in November through the time the lottery enrollment closes the first Friday of February of the proceeding school year. Any applications received after the close of business on the first Friday in February will be placed on the waiting list in order of receipt.

Lottery Process

Applications for enrollment will be made available from November through February. All applications must be received by the first Friday in February in order to be considered for the school's lottery. 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 firm in accordance with state standards and school priorities. Following the lottery, parents are notified of their acceptance. Upon filling all the available positions, the lottery continues through the entire pool of applicants to establish a waiting list.

Any student receiving a seat either through the initial lottery or through the wait list will have a limited time to accept or decline the seat and, if offered the seat prior to the first day of school, must be present beginning the first day of school. Should a parent decline a spot, 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 1:** 1 week to accept or decline a seat for the next school year and submit required enrollment paperwork
- **From June 2 - to the first day of the new school year:** 48 hours to accept or decline a seat for the upcoming school year and submit required enrollment paperwork

Parents/Guardians must return all enrollment materials required within the time limit set above to accept your seat at The Exploris School. Should an applicant decline enrollment or fail to submit the required enrollment materials by the deadline, the slot will be offered to the next student on the waitlist, and the waitlist will be updated accordingly. If we do not receive your completed registration packet materials by the time allowed, families will be contacted by phone or email to inquire as to the status of your materials and your intent to enroll. If we do not hear back from you or you decline enrollment, your spot will be offered to the next applicant on the waiting list.

YOUR CHILD MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. If your child is not in school on the first day of school, the school will make reasonable efforts to contact the student's family via phone and email. If the school has not heard from the family, the seat will be offered to the next student on the waitlist on the next day of school.

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.

Siblings of already enrolled students, children of all full-time employees, children of the school's Board of Directors, and applicants who are Economically Disadvantaged will receive priority enrollment in the following manner:

Lottery Priorities

Children of current staff and siblings are given priority over children of board members and students who are considered Economically Disadvantaged. Should a full-time staff member be hired after the annual lottery has occurred, space will be made available for said staff member's children for the upcoming school year. Children of Board members are given the next preference followed by students whose families qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. If there are more applicants than spaces, the available spaces will be awarded by public lottery with priority in the following order:

1. Children of current eligible staff
2. Siblings of currently enrolled students
3. Children of current Board members
4. Children whose families are considered Economically Disadvantaged
5. All other applicants.

Siblings: 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. Siblings of enrolled students will receive priority for admission during the lottery process if their applications are received by the designated deadline.

· If siblings apply for admission to a charter school for the upcoming school year and a lottery is needed under G.S. 115C-238.29F(g)(1), the charter school will enter one

surname into the lottery to represent all of the siblings applying at the same time. If the surname of the siblings is selected, then all of the siblings shall be admitted to the extent that space is available and does not exceed the grade level capacity. Should the sibling's requested grade level be full, the sibling's name will receive priority status on the waiting list.

· 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 admitted.

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

Economically Disadvantaged Students: Exploris will institute a priority lottery for remaining available seats *in order to achieve 25% of our students meeting the "Economically Disadvantaged" (ED) criteria, defined by meeting national Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) criteria, by the school year 2023-2024.* We will achieve this by meeting the following interim goals:

<u>ACADEMIC YEAR</u>	<u>Target ED %</u>
2018-2019	0%
2019-2020	up to 10%
2020-2021	up to 15%
2022-2023	up to 25%
2023-2024	up to 25%

· With each lottery, the Executive Director will work to identify number of FRL seats to make available per grade level in order to balance students admitted across grade levels, total seats available, school resources, and planned annual target.

- Families will have the opportunity to complete an optional form, separate from their lottery application, where they can offer family income information in order to determine if they are FRL eligible for the purposes of the priority lottery. This supplemental form will ask applicants to consent to verify status as FRL eligible by Exploris staff and will state that no specific information will be obtained beyond eligibility status and that the information will not be retained.

Transportation

Board and school administration will work annually to identify transportation opportunities for children and share the information with parents and guardians.

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

Adopted: 11/19/13

Revised: 6/23/15
Revised: 2/15/18
Adopted: 2/27/18
Revised: 10/22/18
Adopted: