

## Frequently Asked Questions



Anchorage School District

### School lottery FAQ

Find upcoming lottery dates by visiting [www.asdk12.org/parents/choices/](http://www.asdk12.org/parents/choices/)

Applications are available on the website, or can be picked up at alternative schools or the ASD Education Center.

Applications should be returned to the school to which you are applying.

**Q. *Why isn't enrollment offered on a first-come, first-served basis?***

**A.** ASD uses a lottery system to provide an equal opportunity for students who request participation in an alternative program or school for which the number of applications exceeds the number of available openings.

**Q. *How often are lotteries held?***

**A.** Lotteries are held two times each year. The spring lottery will be held during the last two weeks of March. The fall lottery will be held the week prior to fall registration.

**Q. *Can I submit lottery applications to more than one school at a time?***

**A.** Yes. You may submit applications to as many schools as you wish. You must fill out a separate form for each school.

**Q. *My older child is already in an alternative school, and my younger child will be starting school soon and wants to attend the same program. Does my younger child have to go through the lottery process?***

**A.** Yes, your younger child must submit a lottery application, but will be given sibling preference in the next lottery drawing. This means that the child's name will be grouped with other preference students in the same grade level. Their names will be drawn before the names of students in the same grade level who do not have sibling or attendance area preference.

**Q. *What is "sibling preference?"***

**A.** Sibling preference is given to prospective students who have a brother or sister currently enrolled in the same alternative program. If a student has either sibling or attendance area preference, their name will be grouped with other preference students in the same grade level. Their names will be drawn before the names of students in the same grade level who do not have sibling or attendance area preference. In addition, if a student whose name is drawn has siblings entered in the same lottery, those siblings' names are immediately placed on the wait list for their respective grade levels.

**Q. *My older child used to go to an alternative school, but is now in middle school. Can my younger child still get sibling preference?***

**A.** Once a student exits an alternative school program, whether by grade promotion or transfer to another school, that student's siblings no longer qualify for sibling preference. If a student is enrolled in a K-12 language immersion program, their siblings will be eligible for preference in the

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same language immersion program, even if they are in different grade levels. For example, the sibling of a student who attends the Japanese immersion program at Mears Middle School would be eligible for sibling preference at Sand Lake Elementary's Japanese immersion program.

**Q. *What is "attendance area preference?"***

**A.** Attendance area preference is given to students who live in the attendance area for a neighborhood school and who wish to enroll in that school's alternative program. If a student has either sibling or attendance area preference, their name will be grouped with other preference students in the same grade level. Their names will be drawn before the names of students in the same grade level who do not have sibling or attendance area preference.

**Q. *My child has sibling preference (or attendance area preference) does that guarantee them a slot at the school?***

**A.** No. If a student has either sibling or attendance area preference, their name will be grouped with other preference students in the same grade level. Their names will be drawn before the names of students in the same grade level who do not have sibling or attendance area preference. Once as their name is drawn, it will be added to the next available slot on the wait list for that grade level. They do not "jump" the names of students who were drawn in previous lotteries.

**Q. *What is the "grade level draw" and why is it done?***

**A.** All drawings will be performed by grade levels, K-12. Grade levels are drawn first to determine draw order for the lottery. This helps ensure a random, unbiased drawing.

**Q. *Can I watch the lottery names being drawn?***

**A.** Yes. Contact the school's principal to find out when and where they will be holding the lottery draw.

**Q. *Are there any preemptions to the lottery process? What if my child has a medical issue?***

**A.** Yes. Preemptions may be granted for reasons of grade level balance, documented hardship (extenuating circumstances, medical, safety, psychological, or curriculum considerations) or gender balance. All preemptions must be approved by the elementary, middle, or high school executive director for that school's education level (elementary, middle or high).

**Q. *How will I be notified whether my child is accepted into the school?***

**A.** The school will contact parents using the information provided on the lottery application.

**Q. *My child wasn't selected in this year's lottery. Do I have to fill out a new form for the next lottery?***

**A.** No. Your child's name will be placed on a wait list for their grade level. The same wait list will be used every time a lottery drawing is held.

**Q. *How many of the preference slips are drawn before the non-preference slip draw begins?***

**A.** The slips for students with sibling or attendance area preference are drawn until no preference slips remain. Once all students with preference are placed on the wait list, the non-preference draw begins.

**Q. *Two of my children entered the lottery, but only one was selected to attend. I want both of my children to attend the same school. Can I wait to see if my other child gets selected from the wait list next semester and then enroll them both?***

**A.** No. If you decline enrollment once your child's name has been selected, the spot will be offered to the next student on the wait list. Due to enrollment demand, ASD is unable to "hold" spots.

**Q. *My child receives special education services. Do I need to let the school know this before the lottery?***

**A.** No. Lottery drawings are held without regard for special education needs. If you are notified that there is a vacancy for your child at an alternative school, you may tell the school about any special education needs at that time.