

FAQs: DCPS OUT-OF-BOUNDARY LOTTERY FOR GRADES K-12 FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011

The Out-of-Boundary Lottery is a service offered by DCPS to allow parents to apply for available seats at a school other than their child's assigned school(s). (To find your child's assigned school(s), please visit dcps.dc.gov.) This lottery is *not* for children attending their current school as an out-of-boundary student (see #9 below) or for those seeking admission to a selective citywide high school.

Fast Facts:

- The Out-of-Boundary Lottery application period for the 2010-2011 school year **begins on January 28, 2010 and ends on February 28, 2010 at 11:59 PM.**
- Each applicant may apply to up to six out-of-boundary schools.
- The lottery application must be completed online; no paper applications will be accepted.
- The lottery will run on March 2. Results will be posted online on March 3 and mailed home on March 8.
- Applicants who receive a seat in the lottery must accept the offer by April 1 and register by May 1 (including DC residency verification) in order to secure the seat. If you are admitted to Hardy Middle School, you will need to complete additional steps before enrolling at the school.

1. If I apply early in the application period, will I have a better chance of being accepted?

No. As long as you apply between January 28 and February 28, there is no advantage to applying early.

2. If my child has a sibling at the school to which I'm applying, or lives close to the school, will I have a better chance of being accepted?

Yes. The DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR) allow for a preference in the lottery for a particular school if your child has a sibling at the school, or if your child lives within three blocks of an elementary school or five blocks of a secondary school.* If admitted with a "sibling preference," you must be prepared to prove that your children are siblings when registering at the school.

3. How does the lottery work?

- After the application period closes on February 28, each applicant will be assigned a random number for each school he/she applied to.
- The applicants for each grade at each school will then be sorted in order of random number.
- Applicants will be placed into available seats in their particular grade at each school based on their preference order and their random number order. The following is the order of preferences for the Out-of-Boundary K-12 lottery:
 1. Students with a sibling at the school will be placed first, in order of random number.
 2. Students who live within three blocks of an elementary school or five blocks of a secondary school will be placed next, in order of random number.*
 3. Any remaining seats will go to students who have neither sibling nor proximity preferences, in order of random number.
- Finally, applicants who are placed into more than one school will be given a seat at the school they ranked highest and moved to the waitlist for all other schools on their application.
- Waitlists will be created after all seats in a particular grade at a school are filled, so that students who are not admitted will appear on the waitlist in the preference order described above.

Note: The dual language program at Oyster-Adams has two separate lotteries for kindergarten and 1st grade students -- one for children whose dominant language is English, and another for those whose dominant

* A proposal is being considered to change the three- and five-block measures to comparable mile distances in order to standardize and clarify this preference.

language is Spanish. Admitted students will be assessed to confirm their dominant language. For grades 2 and up, all students admitted through the Out-of-Boundary Lottery must demonstrate grade-appropriate Spanish language skills.

4. Does the order in which I rank my choices affect my lottery results?

Yes. If, during the lottery, a student is placed into more than one school, he/she will be given a seat at the highest ranked school and moved to the waitlist for all other schools on his/her application.

5. Can my child be accepted to more than one school? If we get into a school, what happens to our application for the other school(s)?

In order to maximize the number of applicants who receive a seat at a school to which they've applied, students will not be admitted into more than one school in the Out-of-Boundary Lottery. However, all applicants will be placed on the waitlist at each school to which they are not admitted during the lottery.

6. Can I apply to a school that does not anticipate being able to accommodate any out-of-boundary students in the particular grade for which I am applying?

Yes; your child will be placed on a waitlist in case a seat becomes available at a later date.

7. How will I know if any seats are available at a particular school? How is the number of available seats determined?

When you select the school and the grade to which you are applying, the application will indicate the number of out-of-boundary seats the school anticipates being able to offer in the particular grade during the 2010-2011 school year. The number of seats available for out-of-boundary students in each grade at each school is determined based on the school's enrollment projections for the coming year and the school's building capacity, with input from the principal.

8. I'm submitting Out-of-Boundary Lottery and/or Pre-school and Pre-k Lottery applications for more than one child, and I'd like them to be admitted to the same school. Is this possible?

Each child's application is treated independently in the Out-of-Boundary and Pre-school/Pre-k Lotteries; therefore, if one sibling is admitted to a particular school, there is no guarantee that the other will be able to attend the same school. However, DCPS seeks to accommodate families by elevating children to the top of the waitlist for their particular grade at a particular school if their sibling was admitted to that school through the lottery.

9. My child attends his/her current school as an out-of-boundary student. Do I need to reapply to keep him/her at the school next year? OR, if he/she is moving to middle or high school next year, do I need to apply through the Out-of-Boundary Lottery to secure a seat at my school's "destination school" in the feeder pattern?

No. DCPS seeks to create consistent pathways for students throughout their school years. Thus, all out-of-boundary students who are admitted to a school receive the right to continue attending that school through all its available grades, as well as to attend the school's destination school in the feeder pattern. To find your school's destination school, please visit dcps.dc.gov.

10. I want to place my four-year-old in kindergarten. Is this allowed?

No. DC Municipal Regulations state that students applying for kindergarten must turn five by September 30, 2010. You may apply for a seat in pre-kindergarten.

11. Where can I learn more about the school(s) I'm interested in applying to?

Visit dcps.dc.gov for more information about DCPS schools, including information about Open Houses and continuing updates on the Out-of-Boundary Lottery process and policies.