

Policy and Procedures for Public Random Drawing of Potential Students at WSCS

Background:

California Education Code 47605.6(e)(2)(B) states the following:

If the number of pupils who wish to attend the charter school exceeds the school's capacity, attendance, except for existing pupils of the charter school, shall be determined by a public random drawing. Preference shall be extended to pupils currently attending the charter school and pupils who reside in the county except as provided for in Section 47614.5. Other preferences may be permitted by the chartering authority on an individual charter school basis and only if consistent with the law.

Additionally, Education Code 47605.1(c)(1 & 2) states:

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, a charter school may establish a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility located in a county adjacent to that in which the charter school is authorized if the following conditions are met:

(1) The facility is used exclusively for the educational support of pupils who are enrolled in nonclassroom-based independent study of the charter school.

(2) The charter school provides its primary educational services in, and a majority of the pupils it serves are residents of, the county in which the charter school is authorized.

Education Code 47605.6 means that, should the number of students interested in enrolling in a Western Sierra Charter Schools (WSCS) school exceed the available open spots, WSCS will hold a public random drawing for the purpose of creating a ranked list of those potential students.

Education Code 47605.1 means that, as long as a charter school operates a separate resource center in an adjacent county, the school must maintain its enrollment in such a way that the majority of the enrolled students reside within the county of the charter school's authorizing school district. This contingency will be a guiding factor in determining the enrollment of new students who have already been ranked for enrollment by a public random drawing (lottery).

Pursuant to these Education Codes, Western Sierra Charter Schools hereby implements the following policy.

Procedure:

1. Prior to lottery, people on wait list will be contacted and will be given information on lottery date, deadline to respond to secured spots, and will also be given a family number for lottery purposes. This number will be used on the website after the lottery so that families can see their placement in a confidential manner. This number and family information will be written on their lottery card which will then be used for lottery drawing.

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2. Priority will be given to students in the following order:
 - a. Staff member with a child to enroll
 - b. Sibling of a student already enrolled in either MHS or GHS
 - c. Madera county students
 - d. Out of county students
3. Each priority group will be drawn as necessary, beginning with letter “a” (see number 2 above).
4. Students will then be drawn by family. When we draw a family's number all students in that family will be able to enroll based on the information given when contact was made prior to lottery (except in the case where we have less spaces available than there are students in the family--in that case we would give that family priority for the next openings as they would fall into category “b” in priority (see above).
5. After lottery, families would be listed on our website in the order they were drawn using their assigned number.
6. Families will be responsible to make contact with the school and will have 48 hours to contact us to accept/deny spots. If the 48 hour time period falls on either a weekend or holiday then the deadline would be within school business hours. Families would know deadline ahead of time.
7. Contact to accept enrollment can be made by either phone call, email, or filling out a contact form on the website.
8. Lotteries will be held in Oakhurst at regularly scheduled WSCS Board Meetings and prospective students’ families are welcome to attend.
9. As spaces open throughout the year we will contact families on the current lottery until the list is exhausted. When a spot becomes available at either campus, the next family on the list will be contacted regardless of original location preference (Fresno/Oakhurst) and will then be given the opportunity to enroll. For example, If a family who originally wanted placement in Fresno is given the opportunity to enroll in Oakhurst and turns that spot down, they will retain their spot on the lottery list until a spot opens in the location they requested.
10. If new families contact us after the current lottery drawing, they will be placed on a new list for the next lottery.

Adopted: May 24, 2017

Amended: _____