

Public Random Lottery Preference Policy 6.17.26

It shall be the policy of the Orange County School of the Arts Board of Trustees that where the number of students interested in enrolling in OCSA exceed the available open spaces for students, attendance, except for existing OCSA students who are guaranteed enrollment in the following school year, shall be determined by a public random lottery and that preferences shall be applied as outlined below.

Preference in the public random lottery shall be given as required by Education Code section 47605(d)(2)(B)(i)-(iv). In the event of a lottery, the chartering authority shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the growth of the OCSA in accordance with Education Code section 47605(d)(2)(C). In accordance with Education Code sections 47605(d)(2)(B)(iv) and 49011, preferences shall not require mandatory parental volunteer hours as a criterion for admission or continued enrollment. Preferences shall not result in discouraging enrollment or limiting enrollment access for students with disabilities, academically low-achieving, English learners, neglected or delinquent pupils, homeless pupils, or pupils who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, as determined by eligibility for any free or reduced-price meal program, foster youth, or pupils based on nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or immigration status.

In the event of a public random lottery, preference in admission to OCSA will be given to the following students. The Board of Trustees retains authority to refine the sequencing and operational administration of the below-listed preferences to ensure lawful, equitable, and efficient implementation of the lottery, provided that the categories of preference and student eligibility criteria remain unchanged.

1. Students who were previously enrolled at OCSA and are returning from an administrator-approved temporary leave of absence.
2. Siblings of currently enrolled students or graduates of OCSA and children of OCSA staff (defined as current full-time employees of OCSA at the time of the lottery). The sequencing between these two categories may be administratively adjusted by the Board, provided no additional preference category is created and no eligibility definition is expanded or restricted.
3. A preference shall be extended to students who reside in the elementary attendance area where OCSA is located because OCSA is located in the attendance area of a public elementary school in which 55 percent or more of the pupil enrollment is eligible for free or reduced-price meals.



4. If a charter school site is physically located in the attendance area of a public elementary school in which 50 percent or more of the pupil enrollment is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, a preference will be given to pupils currently enrolled in that public elementary school and to pupils who reside in the attendance area of that elementary school in accordance with Education Code section 47605.3.
5. Preference shall be extended to pupils who reside in the Santa Ana Unified School District except as provided for in Education Code section 47614.5.
6. All other students.

This clarification does not modify the educational program, grade levels served, enrollment capacity, governance structure, or the population eligible to apply for admission. All preferences shall continue to be implemented in strict compliance with California Education Code section 47605(d)(2)(B) and other applicable law.

Definitions:

Students who were previously enrolled at OCSA and are returning from an administrator approved temporary leave of absence. Proof of eligibility for this preference will be determined as follows:

1. Applicants must select this preference at the time of application.
2. Applicants must upload the approved temporary leave of absence form at the time of application.
 - a. The form must include a signature of approval from a school administrator.
3. The application must be made within the timeframe specified on the approved temporary leave of absence form. Expired leaves forms will not be honored.

Siblings of currently enrolled students or graduates of OCSA. Proof of eligibility for this preference will be determined as follows:

1. Applicants must select this preference at the time of application.
2. OCSA limits the definition “siblings” to the following:
 - a. Full siblings: These are individuals who share both biological parents.
 - b. Half-siblings: These are individuals who share only one biological parent.
 - c. Adopted siblings: Individuals who are legally adopted by the same parent(s).
 - d. Step-siblings: These are individuals who are related through the marriage of their parents, but are not biologically related.
 - e. Foster siblings: Children placed in the same home under foster care by court order or the Department of Family Services.
 - f. Guardianship: Children under the legal guardianship of the same individual(s).

Children of OCSA staff (defined as current full-time employees of OCSA at the time of lottery). Proof of eligibility for this preference will be determined as follows:

1. Applicants must select this preference at the time of application.
2. OCSA limits the definition “children” to the following:
 - a. Biological Children: This refers to children born to the employee.
 - b. Adopted Children: This refers to children legally adopted by the employee.
 - c. Legally Placed Children: This refers to children placed with the employee through legal guardianship or foster care, where the employee has legal responsibility for the child at the time of application.
 - d. Stepchildren: These are individuals who are related through the marriage of their parents, but are not biologically related.

A preference shall be extended to students who reside in the elementary attendance area where OCSA is located because OCSA is located in the attendance area of a public elementary school in which 55 percent or more of the pupil enrollment is eligible for free or reduced-price meals (Charter School Facility Grant Program). Proof of eligibility for this preference will be determined as follows:

1. Applicants must select this preference at the time of application.
2. Applicants must establish residency in the elementary attendance area where OCSA is located by July 1 of the same year in which making an application for the subsequent year.
3. Applicants must establish residency in the elementary attendance area where OCSA is located no later than July 1 of the year in which the admission cycle begins. This residency deadline applies to all applicants, regardless of whether the application is submitted in the fall or in January of that cycle.
4. Residency will be verified through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.
5. Continued residency at the time of admission lottery.

If a charter school site is physically located in the attendance area of a public elementary school in which 50% or more of the pupil enrollment is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, a preference will be given to pupils currently enrolled in that public elementary school and to pupils who reside in the attendance area of that elementary school in accordance with Education Code section 47605.3. Proof of eligibility for this preference will be determined as follows:

Applicants must select this preference at the time of application.

1. Applicants must currently be enrolled in the identified public elementary school; or Applicants must establish residency in the elementary attendance area where OCSA is located by July 1 of the same year in which making an application for the subsequent year.



2. Applicants must establish residency in the elementary attendance area where OCSA is located no later than July 1 of the year in which the admission cycle begins. This residency deadline applies to all applicants, regardless of whether the application is submitted in the fall or in January of that cycle.
3. Residency will be verified through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System
4. Continued residency at the time of admission lottery.

Preference shall be extended to pupils who reside in the Santa Ana Unified School District except as provided for in Education Code section 47614.5. Proof of eligibility for this preference will be determined as follows:

1. Applicants must select this preference at the time of application.
2. Applicants must establish residency in the Santa Ana Unified School District attendance area by July 1 of the same year in which making an application for the subsequent year.
3. Applicants must establish residency in the elementary attendance area where OCSA is located no later than July 1 of the year in which the admission cycle begins. This residency deadline applies to all applicants, regardless of whether the application is submitted in the fall or in January of that cycle.
4. Residency will be verified through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.
5. Continued residency at the time of admission lottery

OCSA's Admissions Coordinator shall act on behalf of the Board of Trustees in the determination of eligibility for admissions preferences consistent with this policy. Any applicant that requests and subsequently denied a charter preference shall be placed in the random public lottery without the application of a preference. Applicants will have five business days from the date of the written notice of denial of charter preference to make a written appeal. Appeals must be submitted to the Admissions office at admissions@ocsarts.net along with any supportive documentation. The Board of Trustees establishes that the Chief Operations Officer will be the final decision maker for all appeals and no additional appeal proceedings will be applied.