

2020-2021 LOTTERY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COVID-19 RELATED UPDATES TO THE 2020-2021 LOTTERY/ENROLLMENT PROCESS

The following items address updates to our standard lottery/new student enrollment process for the 2020-2021 school year based on the closure of school due to COVID-19.

- The electronic lottery will take place virtually via a Zoom video conference rather than in-person in our school's theater. Details on how to join the Zoom video conference can be found at www.drewcharterschool.org/enrollment/enrollment. You do not need to attend the video conference for your student to be included in the lottery or to receive the results.
- Uncertified results will be available at www.drewcharterschool.org by close-of-business on May 8, 2020, the day after the lottery. Once results are certified, acceptance emails and waitlist emails will be sent no later than May 15, 2020. We will not mail hardcopy acceptance letters or waitlist letters through the United States Postal System.
- Acceptance letters will include detailed information on how to enroll new students who were seated in the lottery. The enrollment process will include:
 - Completing and submitting an online enrollment form by the June 1 deadline and
 - Submitting required enrollment documents.
- The enrollment form will provide an option for uploading required enrollment documents. If a family is unable to upload these documents electronically, they will acknowledge that they will submit hardcopy versions of these forms during an alternative in-person enrollment window at a later, yet-to-be-determined time.

Please note: Other than the location of the lottery changing from a physical site at Drew to occurring virtually through Zoom video conference and updates to the process for how required enrollment documents will be collected, all other procedures related to the 2020 – 2021 lottery and enrollment process currently remain unchanged.

1. Who is eligible to attend Drew Charter School?

Drew Charter School is a tuition-free, non-selective public charter school serving children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. To be eligible to attend Drew, a student must live within the Atlanta Public Schools District (the City of Atlanta) unless they are a child of a current Drew Charter School board member or full-time employee.

2. How do you determine which applicants are offered a seat at Drew?

If there are more applicants than spaces available, applicants are placed in a lottery and selected in order of Drew's enrollment priorities (see Q4). Students who are not seated are placed on a waitlist in the order in which their names were selected.



3. Who participates in the lottery?

All prospective students who submit qualifying applications through Drew’s online lottery application by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on April 30, 2020, are included in the lottery and will either be offered a seat or placed on a waitlist. A qualifying application is a completed application that is submitted for a school-aged child (pre-K through 12th grade) who lives in the City of Atlanta or is a child of a current Drew Charter School board member or full-time employee.

4. What is the priority structure for admission for the 2020-2021 school year?

PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION
A. Early Learning Partners and Board/Employees	Children of current Drew board members and full-time employees.
	Children enrolled in partner preschool or pre-K programs* who live in the Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood.
B. Villages of East Lake	Children who live in the Villages of East Lake.
C. Siblings of 2016-2017 Students	Siblings of current Drew students who were also enrolled during the 2016-2017 school year. The lottery for the 2020-2021 school year is the final year this priority will exist.
D. East Lake and Kirkwood	Siblings of current Drew students (pre-K to 12 th grade) who live in East Lake or Kirkwood.
	Children who live in East Lake or Kirkwood.
E. City of Atlanta	Siblings of current Drew students (pre-K to 12) who live in the Atlanta Public School District.
	Students who live in the Atlanta Public School District.

*Partners programs are the East Lake Early Learning Academy (ELELA), Sheltering Arms East Lake, and Cox Pre-K at Drew. The 3-4 classes at ELELA are eligible for Priority A for pre-K. Cox Pre-K at Drew Charter School and Sheltering Arms East Lake pre-K students are eligible for Priority A for kindergarten.

5. Will Drew continue to prioritize serving economically disadvantaged students?

Yes. Providing a high-quality education to economically disadvantaged children is an integral part of Drew’s mission and purpose. The current charter includes a weighted lottery provision that can be used at the discretion of the Drew Board each year to ensure Drew continues to serve economically disadvantaged children.

6. How will the weighted lottery be implemented in the 2020-2021 lottery?

Drew will utilize a weighted lottery to increase the likelihood of serving more economically disadvantaged students. This includes a student whose family lives below the poverty line, qualifies independently for free or reduced-price meals (not through the district’s Community Eligibility Program) or qualifies for federal benefits including SNAP, TANF, WIC, Medicaid, Section 8 or PINS. The 2020-2021 school year lottery will be weighted for all grade levels within Priorities C, D and E.



7. Do children who currently attend Drew go through the lottery process?

Children in kindergarten through 11^h grade who currently attend Drew will remain Drew students for the coming school year as long as they re-enroll with qualifying documentation within the re-enrollment period.

Students who are currently in the Cox Pre-K Program at Drew Charter School must go through the lottery. Students currently in the Cox Pre-K Program at Drew Charter School who live in The Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood, or are students of full-time Drew employees or board members will be placed in Priority A. Students with current Drew siblings who have been continuously enrolled since the 2016-2017 school year will be in Priority C. Students not meeting the Priority C sibling criteria who live in other areas of the City of Atlanta will be in Priority E.

8. How many spots are available in each grade?

The number of available spots varies per grade. Drew Charter School reserves the right to manage the number of offers made from the waitlist in each grade level in order to balance class size and to follow best practices.

9. When will the lottery take place?

The lottery for the 2020-2021 school year will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 6 p.m. at Charles R. Drew Charter School Junior and Senior Academy, 300 Eva Davis Way SE, Atlanta, GA 30317.

10. Can I come to the lottery?

Parents/guardians and other adults are welcome to attend the lottery. Due to space, children may not attend. Attendance at the lottery is not required. See Q20 for information about how lottery results are shared.

11. How does the lottery work?

Applications will be organized by grade according to the school's charter admission priorities (see Q4). Each student who submits a qualifying application will be assigned a unique lottery identification number. Students will be identified only by their unique lottery identification number, not by name.

The lottery will be conducted using the proven technology of SchoolMint, a well-known provider of application and lottery management tools for charter schools.

Drawings will begin with pre-K and will continue, by grade, through grade twelve. Before each grade's drawing begins, the Head of School will announce the number of spots anticipated to be available in that grade. A representative of Drew's certified public accounting firm, Warren Averett, will observe the lottery and certify the results. Uncertified lottery results will be available the day following the lottery on the Drew Charter School website at www.drewcharterschool.org. This will be updated with certified results once available. It may take several days to certify the lottery results given the large number of applications received.

12. Who do I talk to if I have questions during the lottery?

During the lottery, staff will be available at the Lottery Information Desk, located in the theater lobby. All questions during the lottery should be directed to the Lottery Information Desk, not to the Head of



School or representatives of Warren Averett. If you have a question leading up to the lottery, please contact Enrollment at 404-450-0567 or enrollment@drewcharterschool.org.

13. What is the residency requirement to attend Drew Charter School?

All students who attend Drew Charter School must reside within the Atlanta Public Schools District (the City of Atlanta) at the time of enrollment and throughout their time at Drew, unless they are children of current full-time employees or board members of Drew Charter School. Students claiming a priority based on their neighborhood (Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood) must be able to prove their residency on both the day of enrollment and the first day of school.

14. How do I know if I reside within the Atlanta Public Schools district?

Use the Atlanta Public Schools School Zone locator available at <https://maps.apsk12.org/> to determine if your address of residence is within Atlanta Public School District's attendance zone.

15. How is a student's address determined and verified?

A student's address will be determined based on the bona fide primary residence of the custodial parent/legal guardian. The address of residence is subject to verification via phone, U.S. mail, home visits and all other legal means by school administration or their designee at any time while a student is enrolled at Drew Charter School. Proof of residence documents (see Q27) are collected during the in-person enrollment period for students who are seated during the lottery.

16. Can a child of a current Drew teacher/staff or board member live outside the City of Atlanta and still be enrolled at Drew?

Yes. The child of a current, full-time Drew teacher/staff or board member living outside the City of Atlanta can be enrolled at Drew. This is specifically provided for in both Drew's charter agreement and Georgia state law.

17. If one sibling from a family is accepted, are all other siblings automatically accepted?

No. Each student will go through the process independently for his/her applicable grade.

18. What if the student is a resident in The Villages of East Lake AND a sibling of a child already enrolled?

Students who meet the criteria for more than one priority will be placed in the highest applicable priority.

19. If I am a current Drew parent who lives within the City of Atlanta but not in The Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood, will my student's siblings have priority to attend Drew Charter School?

For the 2020-2021 school year lottery, if your currently enrolled child has attended Drew since the 2016-2017 school year then the student's sibling would fall into Priority C as long as both siblings live with you in the City of Atlanta. The lottery for the 2020-2021 school year is the final year that this priority will exist.

If your currently enrolled student has not attended Drew since the 2016-2017 school year, the student's sibling will fall into Priority E as long as they both live with you in the City of Atlanta.



20. How will I know if my child(ren) will be admitted?

Uncertified lottery results will be posted on Drew Charter School’s website by close of business on Friday, May 8th, 2020. Results will be certified by Drew’s public accounting firm and considered final no later than May 15, 2020. Once certified, applicants will be able to see their status:

- By signing into the SchoolMint account they created when submitting the application.
- On an acceptance or waitlist letter that will be e-mailed to the e-mail address provided on the lottery application (if one was given).
- Via a hardcopy acceptance or waitlist letter sent through the U.S. Postal Service.

Certified results will also be posted publically on Drew’s website at www.drewcharterschool.org/enrollment. Information on next steps for enrollment will be included in acceptance emails and letters.

21. What do I need to do if my child is accepted?

Parents/guardians of students who receive an offer of admission must accept or decline the offer by June 1, 2020, at 3 p.m. Offers are accepted by completing an online enrollment form and returning all required documents listed in the Enrollment Checklist during the in-person enrollment period which ends on June 1, 2020. Offers may be declined by signing into your SchoolMint account and selecting the “Decline” option or emailing enrollment@drewcharterschool.org. Offers to attend Drew that are neither accepted nor declined by 3 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020, will be considered expired, and that space may be made available to the next student on the waitlist.

22. What happens when my child’s name is put on the waitlist?

Your child will remain on the waitlist throughout the remainder of the school year unless a spot opens in the applicable grade and they are the next student on the list. Please ensure the school has your most updated contact information (address, email, phone number) so we can contact you if a spot becomes available. You may update your contact information within the SchoolMint account created when submitting your application or by emailing enrollment@drewcharterschool.org.

23. What happens when my child is on the waitlist and his/her name is next in line for an offer of admission?

Should a seat become available for your child, you will receive a phone call from Drew extending a verbal offer of admission. You will also receive an email or a text message (whichever method of communication you selected on your application) that same day. You will have five business days from the date of the offer to accept or decline. During this time, you will need to come to the school to complete the in-person enrollment process. If you do not respond to the offer by 3 p.m. on the fifth business day, the offer will expire and the space may be offered to the next child on the waitlist.

24. How long will my child remain on the waiting list?

Your student will remain on the waiting list unless s/he is offered admission to Drew during the 2020-2021 school year, or until you elect to remove him/her from the waitlist. The waitlist for the 2020-2021 school year will be vacated on the last day of school in May 2021 and will not carry over to the next school year. Parents/guardians may submit a new application online for the 2021-2022 school year beginning in February 2021.



25. If I missed the application deadline, will the application still be available?

The application will be temporarily unavailable between May 1, 2020 and May 7, 2020. The application will reopen after the lottery occurs and any eligible applications will be placed at the end of their priority within the waitlist.

26. What if I made an error on my application and entered the wrong grade information?

During the application window, please make any corrections through the SchoolMint account created when submitting the application. You may also email enrollment@drewcharterschool.org. After the lottery occurs, if the wrong grade information was entered, the student should submit a new application for the correct grade. The application will be placed at the end of its priority within the waitlist.

27. If my child receives a seat in the lottery and an acceptance letter to attend Drew, what documents are required to enroll?

If your child receives an acceptance letter you will need to complete the enrollment process by June 1, 2020 at 3 p.m. EST. This includes completing an online enrollment form and in-person enrollment. The Enrollment Checklist, located on the Enrollment Tab at www.DrewCharterSchool.org, provides a list of all documents required. *Enrollment documents are not submitted when you complete the lottery application. You will only need to submit these documents as a part of the enrollment process if your child receives an acceptance letter.*

28. If I believe my child qualifies as economically disadvantaged, when do I provide this information?

When completing the lottery application, you will have the opportunity to answer questions about your economically disadvantaged status that may increase, though does not guarantee, your child's chances of admission (see Q6). Please note that answering the Economically Disadvantaged Information questions on the application is optional. *Documents proving your economically disadvantaged status are not submitted when you complete the lottery application for your child. If applicable, you will need to submit these documents as part of the enrollment process if your child receives an acceptance letter.*

29. What documents are needed as proof of economically disadvantaged status during enrollment?

If you receive an acceptance letter you will need to complete in-person enrollment by June 1, 2020, at 3 p.m. EST. The Enrollment Checklist, located on the Enrollment Tab at www.DrewCharterSchool.org, provides a list of all documents required, including proof of economically disadvantaged status. *Documents proving your economically disadvantaged status are not submitted when you complete the lottery application for your child. You will only need to submit these documents as part of the enrollment process if your child receives an acceptance letter.*

30. What if I move during the enrollment period?

If you move before the lottery application window closes (April 30, 2020), please update your information within the SchoolMint account created when submitting the application or contact the Enrollment Team at enrollment@drewcharterschool.org.

If you move after the lottery occurs and you were seated based on your previous address:



- a. If the new address is in the same or higher priority than the address submitted on your application, you retain your seat and must prove residency at your current address.
- b. If the new address is a lower priority than the address submitted on your application, you forfeit your seat and are placed at the end of your current priority within the waitlist.

See Q13 for additional residency information.

31. What if I move after the enrollment period?

To be included in the lottery, a student must apply with an eligible address during the application window. A student who receives an acceptance letter must provide proof of residency at the time of enrollment (by June 1, 2020). If a student moves into the City of Atlanta or one of Drew's priority neighborhoods after the application window, they may submit a post-lottery application. Any eligible post-lottery application will be added to the end of its priority within the waitlist.

32. Are residents of Olmstead at East Lake be considered residents of the East Lake neighborhood for enrollment and admissions purposes at Drew?

Yes. Olmstead at East Lake is considered a part of the East Lake neighborhood by the City of Atlanta.

Please contact the Drew Enrollment Team with any additional questions at 404-450-0567 or enrollment@drewcharterschool.org.