



## 2021-2022 LOTTERY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**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, 2021, 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 2021-2022 school year?**

| PRIORITY  | DESCRIPTION   |
|---|---|
| <b>A. Early Learning Partners and Board/Employees</b> | 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>B. Villages of East Lake</b>                       | Children who live in the Villages of East Lake.   |
| <b>C. East Lake and Kirkwood</b>                      | Siblings of current Drew students (pre-K to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade) who live in East Lake or Kirkwood.                    |
|   | Children who live in East Lake or Kirkwood.   |
| <b>D. City of Atlanta</b>                             | 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.

\*\*There is a proposed charter amendment to this priority to include all students enrolled in a partner preschool or pre-K program who reside in the City of Atlanta. This amendment has been approved by the Drew Board of Directors and the Atlanta Board of Education and is on the agenda for the May 13, 2021 State Board of Education meeting. If approved, the amendment will go into effect at that time.



**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 2021-2022 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, or qualifies for federal benefits including SNAP, TANF, WIC, Medicaid, Section 8 or PINS. The 2021-2022 school year lottery will be weighted 5:1 for all grade levels within Priorities D and E.

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

Children in kindergarten through 11<sup>th</sup> 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. See Q4 for additional information about lottery priorities for students enrolled with an early learning partner.

**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 2021-2022 school year will take place virtually on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 6 p.m. This document and Drew's website will be updated with log in information to join the lottery when available.

**10. Do I have to attend the lottery for my student to be included?**

No, you do not need to attend the live virtual lottery event for your student to be included in the lottery or to receive the results. Uncertified results will be posted to Drew's website by Friday, May 7, 2021. Certified results will be posted to Drew's website no later than May 14, 2021.

**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](http://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. 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.

**13. 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.

**14. 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 are collected during the enrollment period for students who are seated during the lottery.

**15. 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.

**16. 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.

**17. 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.

**18. 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 7, 2021. Results will be certified by Drew's public accounting firm and considered final no later than May 14, 2021. 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).



Certified results will also be posted publically on Drew’s website, once available, at [www.drewcharterschool.org/enrollment](http://www.drewcharterschool.org/enrollment). Information on next steps for enrollment will be included in e-mailed acceptance or waitlist letters.

**19. 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 the deadline provided in the acceptance letters. Offers are accepted by completing an online enrollment form and returning all required documents listed in the Enrollment Checklist. Offers may be declined by signing into your SchoolMint account and selecting the “Decline” option or emailing [enrollment@drewcharterschool.org](mailto:enrollment@drewcharterschool.org). Offers to attend Drew that are neither accepted nor declined the provided deadline will be considered expired, and that space may be made available to the next student on the waitlist.

**20. 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](mailto:enrollment@drewcharterschool.org).

**21. 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 complete the 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.

**22. 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 2021-2022 school year, or until you elect to remove him/her from the waitlist. The waitlist for the 2021-2022 school year will be vacated on the last day of school in May 2022 and will not carry over to the next school year. Parents/guardians may submit a new application online for the 2022-2023 school year beginning in February 2022.

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

The application will be temporarily unavailable between May 1, 2021 and May 14, 2021. The application will reopen on May 15, 2021 and any eligible post-lottery applications will be placed at the end of their priority within the waitlist.

**24. 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](mailto:enrollment@drewcharterschool.org). After the lottery occurs, if the wrong grade information was entered, the student should submit a new post-lottery application for the correct grade. The application will be placed at the end of its priority within the waitlist.



**25. 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 the deadline stated on the acceptance letter. This includes completing an online enrollment form and submitting required vital and proof-of-residency documents. The Enrollment Checklist, located on the Enrollment Tab at [www.DrewCharterSchool.org](http://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.*

**26. 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 Q5 and 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.*

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

If you receive an acceptance letter you will need to complete enrollment by the date stated in the letter. The Enrollment Checklist, located on the Enrollment Tab at [www.DrewCharterSchool.org](http://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.*

**28. What if I move during the enrollment period?**

If you move before the lottery application window closes (April 30, 2021), please update your information within the SchoolMint account created when submitting the application or contact the Enrollment Team at [enrollment@drewcharterschool.org](mailto: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 Q12 for additional residency information.

**29. 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. 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.

**30. Will Drew offer in-person and virtual learning for the 2021-2022 school year?**

Drew Charter School plans to implement two instructional models for the 2021-2022 school year. Drew will return to a full five-day, in-person model starting July 27, 2021, the first day of the new school year. Drew will also offer a full, five-day virtual\* model for the first semester of the new year (July through December 2021) for kindergarten through 12th grade students unable to participate in the in-person model. (\*Drew's Virtual model is pending required approval by Atlanta Public Schools.)

Note: Pre-K will only offer in-person instruction to students. Pre-K will not offer a virtual instructional model.

Please contact the Drew Enrollment Team with any additional questions at 404-450-0567 or [enrollment@drewcharterschool.org](mailto:enrollment@drewcharterschool.org).