



Red Clay School Choice: Frequently Asked Questions

What is School Choice?

The Delaware School Choice program offers parents expanded educational options by giving parents an opportunity to apply for their child to attend a school other than assigned attendance zone school.

When can I apply for Choice?

Choice applications are accepted from the first Monday in November until the second Wednesday in January. **The open application period for 2024 - 2025 is Monday, November 6, 2023 to Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 4:00pm.**

How do I apply for Choice?

1. The first step is to make sure your child is registered or pre-registered in a Delaware public school. If you are applying for Kindergarten, currently attending a private school or currently being homeschooled you must go to your assigned attendance zone school and pre-registered your child. This process must be done in person. If your child is currently attending a Delaware public school you do not need to do this step. To find your attendance zone school <https://pubapps.doe.k12.de.us/SchoolLocator/FeederSchoolSearch.aspx>
2. The second step is to fill out a choice application on or after November 6, 2023 and on or before January 10, 2024 . Applications are accepted online at <http://www.schoolchoicede.org> or paper applications are available at any school or at the Choice Office. All paper applications must be received at the Choice Office by 4pm on **January 10, 2024** to be considered in the choice lottery. Applications can be mailed, faxed, or dropped off at the Choice Office. Applications can not be turned in to the schools.

We encourage the online application as you will receive an immediate confirmation of your application via email. You will also have the ability to go in and modify your application until the January deadline.

I'm interested in more than one school, how many schools can I apply for?

You can list up to three Red Clay schools on your child's application. These schools should be listed in priority order as the lottery processes the schools in the order listed on the application. If you are interested in a school from another district or charter school you are eligible to submit a Standard Application directly to that district or charter as well. Visit <http://www.schoolchoicede.org> to see a full list of eligible schools available for your child's grade.

How is in-district and out-of-district preference determined?

In-district and out-of-district preference is determined by the address that is on file at the Delaware public school your child is registered or pre-registered in. The address listed on the choice application is not used for district determination. If you need to update your address with your child's school please do so before the January deadline.

My child has an IEP or 504, will that prevent my child from being able to apply for choice?

No, all students are eligible to apply for choice. The state choice application and lottery process does not have access to IEP or 504 information.

My child has an IEP or 504 can I request accommodations for assessments related to school choice?

If you wish for your child's accommodations to be a part of the assessment process you will need to contact the Choice Office as soon as possible prior to any scheduled assessment date and no later than the choice deadline of January 10, 2024.

Choice Office:

2914 Duncan Road
Wilmington DE 19808
(302) 552- 3789
(302) 992-7822 fax

8:00am-3:00pm, M-F

The office is the small building to the left of Brandywine Springs School.

<http://www.redclayschools.com/>

I keep hearing about the Choice lottery process. How does that process work?

All complete applications are assigned a computer generated random lottery number and then are ranked using the following considerations.

1. Returning students who continue to meet the requirements for the program or school, including students graduating from one school to another within a single program.
2. Students who meet the requirements for the program or school and who seek to attend based on the residence of the student's parent in the designated feeder pattern, if any, for the school.
3. In-district siblings of in-district students who are already enrolled in the program and who will remain enrolled in the program for the next school year, provided that the siblings meet the requirements for the program or school. Exiting students are not considered siblings for this enrollment preference.
4. In-district students who have designated the school as first, second, or third choice based on the random number assigned by the computer lottery process.
5. Out-of-district siblings of out-of-district students who are already enrolled in the program and who will remain enrolled in the program for the next school year, provided that the siblings meet the requirements for the program or school and the siblings have designated the school as first, second, or third choice based on the random number assigned by the computer lottery process. Exiting students are not considered siblings for this enrollment preference.
6. Out-of-district students who have designated the school as first, second, or third choice based on the random number assigned by the computer lottery process.

If there are more selections for the school than there are seats available, the computer lottery process will be used for selection. All remaining students will be placed on the ranked wait list based on category and random number within that category.

How and when will I find out if my child was accepted for Choice?

Choice notifications are sent out within 5 working days of the February Board Meeting. If you applied online and provided an email address, your notifications will be sent via an email. If you applied using a paper application you will receive a paper notification in the mail.

Can I receive an invitation to more than one Red Clay school?

No, students will not receive more than one invitation to a Red Clay school. The lottery processes your child's Choice application in priority order (i.e. 1st school, 2nd school then 3rd school) as indicated on the standard application.

If the student is invited to their first choice school, no action will be taken on their second or third choice school. If a student is waitlisted for a higher priority school they will be considered for their second choice school and if waitlisted for the second choice school will then be considered for their third choice.

My child was waitlisted, what does that mean?

When a student is waitlisted it means there are no current seats available at the school. As other students accept invitations to other schools, seats may become available and we will call the next student on the waitlist and offer a seat. If your child is waitlisted for a higher priority school and invited to another school, you can accept the invitation. Your child will remain on the waitlist. The waitlist remains until the first day of the school year.

If my child is invited to a school through choice will transportation be provided?

Yes, a bus is assigned to every student attending a Red Clay school. Please be aware that the assigned bus stop is within the current attendance zone for the choice school and can be a far distance from your home. If you accept the seat at the choice school it is the parent's responsibility to get your child to the assigned bus stop or to school every day.