

Magnet School Enrollment Process and Transportation for the School of Environmental Studies

District 196 magnet schools offer families increased choices for learning while helping the district achieve state-required integration goals.

High School Level School Choice

Any 10th or 11th grade school-age student who lives within Independent School District 196 has the opportunity to apply for enrollment in the School of Environmental Studies program. Non-resident students may also apply, but will only be considered after applications of students residing in District 196 are processed in the enrollment lottery.

Magnet Transportation to the School of Environmental Studies (SES)

Magnet students are District 196 high school students who have been accepted to SES. If a magnet student is eligible for transportation to her or his home high school, she or he has the opportunity to be transported to SES via district transportation. SES currently utilizes a shuttle system for students who request it and are eligible for transportation. Morning and afternoon transportation will be provided to all district resident magnet school students from their home highschool to the School of Environmental Studies, according to Policy 707, Student Transportation.

Enrollment Guidelines

1. District 196 will provide a fair and open process for enrolling students in the magnet schools. This process will be reviewed annually.
2. Each year, the district will publish the timeline and process for application and selection.
3. The application and selection process will be administered by the Instruction and Achievement Department staff, for Magnet Schools, with final approval from the superintendent.
4. To apply for the magnet school enrollment lottery, a family must complete and submit an application no later than December 19, 2025.
5. If the number of applicants exceeds available space, a random selection process will determine placement and wait list status.
6. Families will be notified of placement or wait list status no later than January 7, 2026.
7. Once enrolled, students may remain at the School of Environmental Studies as long as their enrollment continues uninterrupted.

Enrollment Provisions

Phase One: Student Narratives

Fifty percent of all District 196 applications will be automatically accepted based on Student Narrative Responses. Remaining applications will then be moved to Phase Two: Enrollment Lottery.

Phase Two: Enrollment Lottery

Placements will be made from the following groups in the order listed, using a random selection process. If space no longer remains when a name is drawn, the student will be added to a waiting list.

1. 10th grade district residents with one or more siblings currently enrolled at SES.
2. Applicants to the School of Environmental Studies who attended District 196 magnet schools (District 196 Residents)
3. All remaining applicants who are District 196 residents.
4. 10th grade siblings of current enrolled SES students who do not reside in District 196.
5. Applicants to the School of Environmental Studies who attended District 196 magnet schools who do not reside in District 196.
6. Current open-enrolled students who do not reside in District 196.
7. All remaining applicants who do not reside in District 196.

Phase	Enrollment	School of Environmental Studies
1	Student Narratives	Fifty percent of all District 196 applications will be automatically accepted based on Student Narrative Responses
2	Enrollment Lottery	10th grade district residents with one or more siblings currently enrolled at SES
		Applicants to the School of Environmental Studies who attended District 196 magnet schools (District 196 Residents)
		District 196 Residents
		10th grade siblings of current enrolled SES students who do not reside in District 196 (Transportation not provided)
		Applicants to the School of Environmental Studies who attended District 196 magnet schools who do not reside in District 196 (Transportation not provided)
		Current Open-Enrolled students who do not reside in District 196 (Transportation not provided)
		Non-District Residents (Transportation not provided)