Waterford Township School District

Waterford Township School District – Choice District Profile 2026-2027

Waterford Township School District
1106 Old White Horse Pike
Waterford, NJ 08089
Camden County

District Grades: Pre-K to 6
Approved Choice Grades: K to 6
Total Number of Students Enrolled in District: 913

Choice Parent Information Center Phone number:
856-767-8293 Ext. 5043
Name of Program Contact:
Lisa DiRenzo
Phone Number & E-mail of Program Contact:
856-767-8293 Ext. 5043 / ldirenzo@wtsd.org

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Choice Program

Waterford Township School District is an elementary school district located in the southeast corner of Camden County. The Atco Elementary School houses first and second grades. The Thomas Richards Early Childhood Center houses preschool and kindergarten. The Waterford Elementary School houses third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades. Secondary resident students attend the Hammonton School District under a send/receive agreement which is located in Atlantic County but is adjacent to Waterford Township.

Through our progressive, student centered curriculum and comprehensive system of supports, Waterford Township School District provides all students with a safe and equitable learning environment that cultivates academic, social and emotional growth. We encourage the development of personal strengths, a positive self-image and an appreciation for the uniqueness of each individual. Through community partnerships and engagement, the district provides a strong foundation for students to reach their full potential as they continue their educational journey.

Choice Seats Available for 2026-2027 School Year

*The purpose of the chart below is to inform parents of choice seat availability **before** the application deadline of November 24, 2025. After the deadline, the information will be outdated.*

The Department of Education limits the number of choice seats that each district can fill. The "maximum number of new choice students that can be enrolled" indicates how many *new* choice students the district can enroll in the next school year. If more than the maximum number of applications is received, a lottery will be held and a waitlist will be developed. **Waitlists will be developed for all approved choice grades even if no seats are currently available (designated as "Full"). Not Available indicates the district does not accept choice applications for those grades because they are not approved choice grades or are not offered by the district.**

Maximum Number of New Choice Students That Can Be Enrolled: 10
Atco Elementary: Grades 1, 2
Thomas Richards Early Childhood Center: Grade K
Waterford Elementary: Grades 3-6

Grade	Seat Availability Per Grade
K	Potential Available Seats
1	Potential Available Seats
2	Potential Available Seats
3	Potential Available Seats
4	Potential Available Seats
5	Potential Available Seats
6	Potential Available Seats

DISTRICT CHOICE POLICIES	YES/NO
a. The district accepts Tier 2 students.	YES
b. The district gives enrollment preference to applicants with a sibling who is currently enrolled in the choice district and who will continue to be enrolled in the following year, provided the applicant will enroll in a choice-approved grade/program, they meet any program-specific criteria, and the district has determined that a seat is available in the desired grade.	YES
c. The district gives enrollment preference to choice applicants who have completed the terminal grade of the sending district (i.e., students who attend a choice district with grades that terminate before 12th grade and have a natural progression to this choice district), provided there are choice seats in the choice-approved grades/programs and the applicants meet any program-specific criteria.	N/A
d. The district gives enrollment preference to resident students who move before the application deadline. If resident students move and submit choice applications for the following year prior to the deadline, the district will give them enrollment preference, provided there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/programs and the applicants meet any program-specific criteria. *If the district has already reached its NJDOE-approved choice enrollment maximum, this preference will not apply.*	YES
e. The district gives special consideration to resident students who move after the application deadline. Students in this situation may apply as late applicants and be added to the front of the district's waitlist, provided the students will enroll in a choice-approved grade/ program and they meet any program-specific criteria. *No additional choice seats will be approved to accommodate these students.*	YES

Transportation Note to Parents

Transportation of choice students is not guaranteed. **If a student is eligible for transportation (within 20 miles of the school) and the cost will exceed the maximum amount designated in the Annual Appropriations Act, the parent/ guardian will be given aid in lieu of transportation and, in some cases, the option of receiving the transportation and paying the additional amount over the maximum. By August 1, 2026, parents should receive notification of their transportation options from the resident district. For more information read the *Choice Transportation Procedures* found on the** Student Transportation webpage**.**

Tier 1 Students

Choice districts must first fill their available seats with Tier 1 students. If the number of Tier 1 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a lottery to randomly select students.

Tier 1 students include the following applicants:

- Students who are enrolled in a NJ public school in their resident school district during the time of application and for the entire year immediately preceding enrollment in a choice district.
- A student who moved during the school year and attended their resident district schools.
- Students who attend a choice district that terminates before 12th grade and have reached the final grade.
- Charter school students.
- To qualify as Tier 1 for kindergarten, a student must be attending their resident district preschool, or a student has a sibling attending the choice district in the current year and the sibling will continue to be enrolled in the following year.

Tier 2 Students

Choice districts are not obligated to accept Tier 2 students. If a choice district accepts Tier 2 applicants, they may do so only *after all of the qualified Tier 1 applicants have been accepted*. If the number of Tier 2 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a Tier 2 lottery to select students. Tier 2 students include NJ residents who have **not** attended their resident public school for the entire year immediately prior to enrollment in the desired choice district and do **not** otherwise meet the requirements for Tier 1. This includes students who have been attending public school outside their districts of residence or private school. Tier 2 students also include students applying for kindergarten who are **not** attending their resident district preschool and do not have a sibling attending the choice district in the current year.