



Weymouth High School CTE Admissions

Weighted
Lottery Proposal

Context: Current Demand vs. Capacity

- Applications: 295–300 annually
- Seats available: ~190 for 10 chapter 74 programs
- 120+ applicants each year
- Current process: (grades, attendance, discipline, recommendation) → Rank & waitlist



Why Change?

- DESE [mandate](#) (May 2025): Admissions must use lottery-based systems
- Prior selective systems (grades, referral, recommendations) are no longer permitted
- Goal: Transparency, Equity, Access



Admissions Options

- 1. Blind Lottery → every applicant has equal chance
- 2. Weighted Lottery → every applicant **is entered once, a student who satisfies a criterion is assigned additional weight in the lottery**
- 3. Current WHS Policy and Standards (phased out by DESE)



Weighted Lottery in 3 Steps

- 1. Everyone gets into the pool → each applicant gets 1 entry/ticket
- 2. Applicant may earn additional entries/tickets for criterion(categories) → attendance, discipline
- 3. Run the drawing until seats are filled



Plus 1 Lottery Entry for each qualifying criteria	Criteria for lottery entries Attendance, Discipline
+1 Lottery Entry for a completed application	Students will receive 1 lottery entry for submitting a completed application
+1 Lottery Entry for meeting the attendance criteria	Students with fewer than 27 unexcused absences between all of 7th grade and the first half of 8th grade will receive 1 additional lottery entry.
+1 Lottery Entry for meeting the discipline criteria	Students with no suspensions in connection to felonies pursuant to M.G.L c.37H or 37H1/2 that have been adjudicated or in which the student has made an admission of guilt in court will receive 1 additional lottery entry.

Max = 3 entries per student

Still random – effort only slightly improves odds



New Application Process

- New CTE Google [Form](#)/application (with translations)
- All applications reviewed by district and CTE Office as before, for out of district candidates
- **Application open must be November 1**
- Same February 1 deadline → Mid February, lottery run- Call it something like “Lottery Day”



My Recommendation

- For transparency, alignment with mandate and to avoid disputes, focus weighted lottery criteria/categories or tickets on:
 - ✓ Attendance – CTE and school-driven, objective, pulled from SIS
 - ✓ Discipline – CTE and school-driven, objective, verified through records(Dean/Guidance).
- These two measures are objective, less likely to be
- challenged by families, and ensure –**equity** without subjective interpretation.



Next Steps

- Adopt [Weighted Lottery Admission Policy](#) for incoming 8th graders and all future applicants
- Implement [new CTE Application](#), based on the approved Admission Policy application and new processing lottery [system](#)
- November 2025: School Committee vote NOV 1 is deadline to submit School committee approved policy to DESE
- November 2025: Post approved admission on DESE's website and WPS website- go live
- December: Present at Chapman Middle school
- January: Application support sessions(calls, Virtual and in-person)
- February 1: Deadline for admission
- Spring 2026: Lottery + placement notifications
- Make sure lottery day allows for an appeal within the time frame required by DESE

