

Schools of Choice

2026-27 School Year

November 7 - December 1, 2025

Apply online during the window at: www.venturausd.org

WHO? Parents/guardians of school age children, **who currently reside in the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) boundary** during the Schools of Choice (SOC) window, can apply. For kindergarten eligibility, children must turn 5 years old on or before September 1, 2026. For Transitional Kindergarten (TK) eligibility, students must turn 4 years old on or before September 1, 2026.

WHAT? Schools of Choice (SOC) is the process Ventura Unified School District provides families who reside within our boundary, a choice to select a school within VUSD that they feel will most benefit their child (VUSD Board Policy 5116.1). Schools and programs are identified based on space availability for additional students. Schools of Choice applications are selected for approval through a random and unbiased lottery. Applications are not selected on a first come, first served basis.

WHEN? **THE APPLICATION WINDOW IS: NOVEMBER 7 – DECEMBER 1, 2025 (Deadline 4 PM).** To participate in SOC, online submission of your application is required for every new incoming child/sibling.

Frequently Asked Questions...

Student Support Services: (805)641-5000 x1370

- **Do I need to reside in the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) boundary to apply for Schools of Choice (SOC)?** Yes. Parents/current legal guardians must be residing within the VUSD boundary at the time the application is submitted.
- **How are students selected for Schools of Choice?** A lottery draw will occur after the application period closes.
- **Can I apply if my student has an IEP? (i.e. SDC-Special Day Class)** Yes. However, not all Special Education services and programs are available at all schools. The placement for any student with an IEP is reliant upon the recommendation of the student's IEP team. Before you submit an application, you may contact the requested School of Choice or the Education Service Center staff listed below for a description of the Special Education services offered at the requested School of Choice. [Special Education Office, (805) 641-5000 ext.1123].
- **Can I apply if my student is an English Learner?** Yes. All schools have programs for English Learners. Before you submit an application, you may contact the requested School of Choice or the Education Service Center staff listed below for a description of the English Learner Program and academic support provided. [Multilingual/Multicultural Office, (805) 641-5000 ext.1084]
- **Can I apply for the Dual Language Immersion Program (DLI)?** Yes.
Elementary Schools: Will Rogers, Montalvo and Sheridan Way offer a dual language program. However, acceptance for students in the 2nd grade and above is contingent on the student testing into the program.
Secondary Schools: Anacapa Middle School and Ventura High School offer a dual language program. However, acceptance for new students is contingent on the student testing into the program. Students currently in the program pathway will not have to test. For more information you may contact the school or the Education Service Center staff listed below. [Multilingual/Multicultural Office, (805) 641-5000 ext.1084].
- **What if my child has a sibling already attending the desired school?** An application for the sibling must be submitted during the Schools of Choice window. These applications will be given priority if a sibling is already in attendance and will continue attending the desired school for which the family is applying. For twins or multiples, a separate application is required for each child. The children will be counted together, per Board Policy.
- **Will district transportation be provided?** Transportation will not be provided for any elementary Schools of Choice. Transportation is only provided for Anacapa Middle School (DLI only), De Anza Academy of Technology & the Arts (DATA) and Foothill Technology High School.
- **Do I need to apply for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) for my child?** No. Transitional Kindergarten enrollment will be boundary based beginning the 2026-27 school year, except for Pierpont as they will not offer this program. This means you can enroll at your boundary school without using the SOC process or apply through SOC to attend a non-boundary school. Pierpont boundary TK families must apply through the SOC lottery as Pierpont does not offer a TK program.
Please note, the 2025-26 SOC TK placement for students expires at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Starting with the TK students who enroll through SOC for the 2026-27 school year, reapplication will only be required at the end of 5th grade.
- **Can I apply if my child has never attended a Ventura Unified school or is enrolled in a private school?** Yes. Proof of residence will be required at a later date.
- **When will I be notified about the outcome of the lottery?** You will be notified by email in early December.
- **If my child is selected, must I reapply each year?** No. Once enrolled through Schools of Choice, the student becomes a member of that school community for the duration of the student's attendance at that level. Reapplication is only required at the end of 5th grade and 8th grade. There is no need for yearly reapplication. However, the student may be subject to displacement if excessive neighborhood enrollment occurs. Any applicant not assigned to a School of Choice may reapply the following year.
- **Will there be a waiting list?** Yes. There will be a waiting list. Once the lottery is held, students are placed up to the number of seats available. If more seats become available, families from the waitlist will be contacted. The waiting list is only good for one year.
- **Are there other opportunities to apply for schools after Schools of Choice?** Yes. The intradistrict transfer process (students moving/transferring within or among Ventura Unified School District schools) is a process that becomes available following the completion of SOC. Intradistrict transfer forms are located on the VUSD website, www.venturausd.org, at all VUSD school sites, and at the *Education Service Center, Student Support Services, 255 W. Stanley Avenue #100, Ventura.*
- **For VUSD employees only:** With professional courtesy as per VUEA/VESPA contracts, you may apply for SOC even if you reside outside of the VUSD boundary. You are still required to submit an Interdistrict Transfer Agreement from your resident district.

Elementary Schools:

- ATLAS School TK-8*
- Citrus Glen Elementary School
- Elmhurst Elementary School
- EP Foster Elementary School*
- Juanamaria Elementary School
- Junipero Serra Elementary School
- Lemon Grove School TK-8
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Loma Vista Elementary School

- Montalvo Elementary School*
- Mound Elementary School*
- Pierpont Elementary School♦
- Poinsettia Elementary School
- Portola Elementary School
- Sheridan Way Elementary School*
- Sunset School TK-8
- Will Rogers Elementary School*

Secondary Schools:

- ATLAS School TK-8*
- Anacapa Middle School
- Balboa Middle School
- Cabrillo Middle School
- DATA Middle School*
- Lemon Grove School TK-8
- Sunset School TK-8
- Buena High School

- Foothill Technology High School*
- Ventura High School

*Magnet School
♦No TK