



2026 LOTTERY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who is eligible to attend Drew Charter School?

Drew Charter School is a tuition-free, non-selective public charter school serving children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. To be eligible to attend Drew, a student must live within the Atlanta Public Schools District (the City of Atlanta) unless they are a child of a current Drew Charter School board member or full-time employee.

2. How do you determine which applicants are offered a seat at Drew?

If there are more applicants than spaces available, applicants are placed in a lottery and selected in order of Drew's enrollment priorities (see Q7). Students who are not seated are placed on a waitlist in the order in which their names were selected.

3. Who participates in the lottery?

All prospective students who submit qualifying applications through Drew's online lottery application by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on April 30, 2026, are included in the lottery and will either be offered a seat or placed on a waitlist. A qualifying application is a completed application that is submitted for a school-aged child (pre-K through 12th grade) who lives within the Atlanta Public Schools District (the City of Atlanta) or is a child of a current Drew Charter School board member or full-time employee.

4. Will Drew continue to prioritize serving economically disadvantaged students?

Yes. To further its goal of socioeconomic diversity, Drew will continue to use a weighted lottery to increase the statistical likelihood that students from economically disadvantaged families are seated. Drew's Board has approved a 100:1 weight for the 2026-2027 lottery. In the event that the Drew Charter School Board reasonably anticipates that there will not be sufficient lottery applicants from students whose families are economically disadvantaged to meet its goals of serving a socioeconomically diverse student population, in alignment with Drew's Admission and Enrollment policy, randomly selected applications from students whose families are economically disadvantaged may be placed in a higher enrollment priority in the lottery in numbers sufficient to make it statistically likely that Drew Charter School will reach its socioeconomic diversity goals.

5. How will the weighted lottery be implemented in the 2026-2027 lottery?

Within each enrollment priority, Drew will use a weighted lottery of 100:1 to increase the likelihood of serving more students from economically disadvantaged families. The Georgia Department of Education defines "economically disadvantaged" as students whose family lives below the poverty line, qualifies independently for free or reduced-price meals, or qualifies for federal benefits including SNAP, TANF, WIC, Medicaid, Section 8 or PINS.

6. How many spots are available in each grade?

The number of available spots varies per grade. Drew Charter School reserves the right to manage the number of offers made from the waitlist in each grade level to balance class size and to follow best practices.



7. What is the priority structure for admission for the 2026-2027 school year?

Pre-Kindergarten Priorities

Enrollment Priority	Description
Priority A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are a member of the governing board, or a full-time teacher, professional, or other employee of Drew, regardless of where they reside; then 2. Students who reside in the City of Atlanta and meet the statutory preference of current enrollment in a Partner Pre-School Program. Partner Pre-School Program includes only the three-year-old classes at the East Lake Early Learning Academy.
Priority B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students who reside in The Villages of East Lake.
Priority C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Siblings* of students currently enrolled at Drew who reside in East Lake or Kirkwood; then 2. All other students who reside in East Lake or Kirkwood.
Priority D	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Siblings* of students currently enrolled at Drew who live in the City of Atlanta; then 2. All other students who reside in the City of Atlanta.

*For the purposes of the lottery, Drew defines siblings as students with a shared legal guardian and shared residence.

Kindergarten through 12th Grade Priorities

Enrollment Priority	Description
Priority A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are a member of the governing board, or a full-time teacher, professional, or other employee of Drew (including the Cox Pre-Kindergarten Program), regardless of where they reside; then 2. Students who reside in the City of Atlanta and meet the statutory preference of current enrollment in a Partner Pre-Kindergarten Program. Partner Pre-Kindergarten Programs include only the pre-kindergarten program at the Sheltering Arms East Lake Center and the Cox Pre-Kindergarten Program at Drew Charter School.
Priority B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students who reside in The Villages of East Lake
Priority C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Siblings* of students currently enrolled at Drew who reside in East Lake or Kirkwood; then 2. All other students who reside in East Lake or Kirkwood.
Priority D	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Siblings* of students currently enrolled at Drew who live in the City of Atlanta; then 2. All other students who reside in the City of Atlanta.

*For the purposes of the lottery, Drew defines siblings as students with a shared legal guardian and shared residence.



8. When will the lottery take place?

The lottery for the 2026-2027 school year will take place virtually on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 6 p.m. Drew’s website will be updated with a link to join the lottery closer to that date.

9. Do children who currently attend Drew go through the lottery process?

Children in kindergarten through 11th grade who currently attend Drew will remain Drew students for the coming school year as long as they re-enroll with qualifying documentation during the re-enrollment window.

Students who are currently enrolled in the Cox Pre-K Program at Drew Charter School must go through the lottery. See Q7 for additional information about lottery priorities for students enrolled with an early learning partner.

10. Do I have to attend the lottery for my student to be included?

No, you do not need to attend the live virtual lottery for your student to be included in the lottery or to receive the results. Uncertified results will be posted to Drew’s website by May 8, 2026. Certified results will be posted to Drew’s website no later than May 14, 2026.

11. How does the lottery work?

Applications will be organized by grade according to the school’s charter admission priorities (see Q7). Each student who submits a qualifying application will be assigned a unique lottery identification number. Students will be identified only by their unique lottery identification number, not by name. The lottery will be conducted using the proven technology of SchoolMint, a well-known provider of application and lottery management tools for charter schools.

Drawings will begin with pre-K and will continue, by grade, through 12th grade. Before each grade’s drawing begins, the Head of School will announce the number of seats available. A lottery will take place and all applicants will be either seated or waitlisted in order of enrollment priorities. A representative of Drew’s certified public accounting firm, Warren Averett, will observe the lottery and certify the results. Uncertified lottery results will be available the day following the lottery on the Drew Charter School website at www.drewcharterschool.org. This will be updated with certified results no later than May 14, 2026.

12. What is the residency requirement to attend Drew Charter School?

All students who attend Drew Charter School must reside within the Atlanta Public Schools District (the City of Atlanta) at the time of enrollment and throughout their time at Drew, unless they are children of current full-time employees or board members of Drew Charter School. Students claiming a priority based on their neighborhood (Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood) must be able to prove their residency on both the day of enrollment and the first day of school.

13. How do I know if I reside within the Atlanta Public Schools district?

Use the Atlanta Public Schools School Zone locator available at <https://maps.apsk12.org/>.

14. How is a student’s address determined and verified?

A student’s address will be determined based on the bona fide primary residence of the custodial parent/legal guardian. The address of residence is subject to verification via phone, U.S. mail, home



visits and all other legal means by school administration or their designee at any time while a student is enrolled at Drew Charter School. Proof of residence documents are collected during the enrollment period for students who are seated during the lottery or called off the waitlist.

15. Can a child of a current Drew teacher/staff or board member live outside the City of Atlanta and still be enrolled at Drew?

Yes. The child of a current, full-time Drew teacher/staff or board member living outside the City of Atlanta can be enrolled at Drew. This is specifically provided for in both Drew’s charter agreement and Georgia state law.

16. If one sibling from a family is accepted, are all other siblings automatically accepted?

No. Each student will go through the process independently for his/her applicable grade.

17. What if the student applying is a resident in The Villages of East Lake AND a sibling of a child already enrolled?

Students who meet the criteria for more than one priority will be placed in the highest applicable priority.

18. How will I know if my child(ren) will be admitted?

Uncertified lottery results will be posted on Drew Charter School’s website by close of business on May 8, 2026. Results will be certified by Drew’s public accounting firm and considered final no later than May 14, 2026. Once certified, applicants will be able to see their status:

- By signing into the SchoolMint account they created when submitting the application.
- On an acceptance or waitlist letter that will be e-mailed to the e-mail address provided on the lottery application (if one was given).

Certified results will also be posted publicly on Drew’s website, once available, at www.drewcharterschool.org/enrollment. Information on next steps for enrollment will be included in e-mailed acceptance or waitlist letters.

19. What do I need to do if my child is accepted?

Parents/guardians of students who are seated in the lottery and receive an offer of admission must accept or decline the offer by the deadline provided in the acceptance letters. Offers are accepted by completing an online enrollment form and returning all required documents listed in the [Enrollment Checklist](#). Offers may be declined by signing into your SchoolMint account and selecting the “Decline” option or emailing enrollment@drewcharterschool.org. Offers to attend Drew that are neither accepted nor declined by the provided deadline will be considered expired, and that space may be made available to the next student on the waitlist.

20. What happens when my child’s name is put on the waitlist?

Your child will remain on the waitlist throughout the remainder of the school year unless a spot opens in the applicable grade and they are the next student on the list. Please ensure the school has your most updated contact information (address, email, phone number) so we can contact you if a spot becomes available. You may update your contact information within the SchoolMint account created when submitting your application or by emailing enrollment@drewcharterschool.org.



21. What happens when my child is on the waitlist and his/her name is next in line for an offer of admission?

Should a seat become available for your child, you will receive a phone call from Drew extending a verbal offer of admission. You will also receive an email or a text message (whichever method of communication you selected on your application) that same day. You will have five business days from the date of the offer to accept or decline. During this time, you will need to complete the enrollment process. If you do not respond to the offer by 3 p.m. on the fifth business day, the offer will expire and the space may be offered to the next child on the waitlist.

22. How long will my child remain on the waiting list?

Your student will remain on the waiting list unless s/he is offered admission to Drew during the 2026-2027 school year, or until you elect to remove him/her from the waitlist. The waitlist will be vacated on the last day of the 2026-2027 school year and will NOT carry over to the next school year. Parents/guardians may submit a new application online for the 2027-2028 school year beginning in February 2027.

23. What if I missed the application deadline?

The application will be temporarily unavailable between May 1, 2026 and June 8, 2026. The application will reopen at 9 a.m. on June 9, 2026, and any eligible post-lottery applications will be placed at the end of their priority within the waitlist in the order in which they are received.

24. What if I made an error on my application and entered the wrong information?

During the application window, please make any corrections (grade, date of birth, address, etc.) through the SchoolMint account created when submitting the application. You may also email enrollment@drewcharterschool.org. No changes may be made after the application window has closed. If a student is seated based on incorrect information submitted in the application, they will forfeit their seat. A new post-lottery application with the correct information may be submitted beginning June 9, 2026. The post-lottery application will be placed at the end of its priority within the waitlist.

25. If my child receives a seat in the lottery and an acceptance letter to attend Drew, what documents are required to enroll?

If your child receives an acceptance letter, you will need to complete the enrollment process by the deadline stated on the acceptance letter. This includes completing an online enrollment form and submitting required vital and proof-of-residency documents. The [Enrollment Checklist](#), located on the Enrollment Tab at www.DrewCharterSchool.org, provides a list of all documents required. *Enrollment documents are not submitted when you complete the lottery application. You will only need to submit these documents as a part of the enrollment process if your child receives an acceptance letter.*

26. If my child qualifies as economically disadvantaged, when do I provide this information?

When completing the lottery application, you will have the opportunity to answer questions about your family's economically disadvantaged status that may increase, though does not guarantee, your child's chances of admission (see Q4 and Q5). Please note that answering the Economically Disadvantaged Information questions on the application is optional. *Documents proving your economically disadvantaged status are not submitted when you complete the lottery application for your child. If applicable, you will need to submit these documents as part of the enrollment process if your child receives an acceptance letter.*



27. What documents are needed as proof of economically disadvantaged status during enrollment?

If you receive an acceptance letter, you will need to complete an enrollment process by the date stated in the letter. The [Enrollment Checklist](#), located on the Enrollment Tab at www.DrewCharterSchool.org, provides a list of all documents required, including proof of economically disadvantaged status. If an applicant claiming economic disadvantage is unable to provide documentation of their status, the offer will be rescinded. *Documents proving your economically disadvantaged status are not submitted when you complete the lottery application for your child. You will only need to submit these documents as part of the enrollment process if your child receives an acceptance letter.*

28. What if I move during the enrollment period?

If you move before the lottery application window closes (April 30, 2026), update your information within the SchoolMint account created when submitting the application or contact the Enrollment Team at enrollment@drewcharterschool.org.

If you move after the lottery occurs and you were seated based on your previous address:

- a. If the new address is in the same or higher priority than the address submitted on your application, you retain your seat and must prove residency at your current address.
- b. If the new address is a lower priority than the address submitted on your application, you forfeit your seat and may submit a post-lottery application to be placed on the waitlist beginning June 9, 2026.

See Q12 for additional residency information.

29. What if I move after the enrollment period?

To be included in the lottery, a student must apply with an eligible address during the application window. A student who receives an acceptance letter must provide proof of residency at the time of enrollment. If a student moves into the City of Atlanta or one of Drew's priority neighborhoods after the application window, they may submit a post-lottery application beginning June 9, 2026. Any eligible post-lottery application will be added to the end of its priority within the waitlist.