Morris Hills Regional District

Out-of-District School Choice Program

Eligibility for Out-of-District School Choice

For NJ residents living outside Denville, Rockaway Borough, Rockaway Township, or Wharton (Grades 9–12):

TIER 1 APPLICANTS

Public School Students

Currently enrolled in your local public school, a public charter school, or attending a K-8 choice school as a Choice student.

TIER 2 APPLICANTS

Private & Homeschool

Currently enrolled in a private/parochial school, homeschooled, or paying tuition to attend another school.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENT

Filing Deadline

All paperwork and required application materials must be filed by November 24th.

SEAT AVAILABILITY & SELECTION PRIORITY

29 Seats Available

All eligible Tier 1 students will be offered seats before eligible Tier 2 students.

Decisions for the Magnet Program

:

- Qualified school choice candidates for the Magnet Program will be considered after all qualified in-district candidates as follows:
  - Preference will be given to qualified siblings of current choice students*, MacKinnon choice students, and current students who have moved out of district
  - Qualified Tier 1 students will be considered before qualified Tier 2 students
  - After seats are filled, all other qualified students will be placed on a ranked waitlist.

*Sibling preference only applies if the sibling is a Choice student who will be enrolled in the district in Fall 2027.

Aviation Program

PROGRAM OFFERING

3-Year Elective Sequence

Specific seats are open for students interested in our 3-year Aviation sequence. Grade 8 or 9 students may apply.

SCHOOL PLACEMENT

High School Attendance

Students attend Morris Hills or Morris Knolls as general high school students while committing to the sequence.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENT

Essay Submission

Applicants to the Aviation sequence must submit an essay discussing their interest in the program.

MAGNET APPLICANTS

Apply to Magnet Directly

Admitted Magnet applicants may take Aviation as an elective and should apply to Magnet, not Aviation.

School Choice Decisions for General HS & Aviation

What happens if more students apply than there are seats available?

PRIORITY STAGE

Preference Groups

Preference is given to the following groups before any lottery selection:

- **Choice Siblings:** Choice applicants with Choice siblings currently enrolled in the district in Grades 9–11
- **MacKinnon MS:** Choice applicants who are currently MacKinnon MS Choice students
- **Relocated Students:** Choice applicants who are current MHRD students but have moved out of district

GENERAL SELECTION

Random Lottery Process

All other applicants will be selected through a random lottery:

- **Separate Lotteries:** GHS for Grade 9, GHS for Grades 10-12, and Aviation each have its own lottery process and waitlist
- **Ranked Waitlist:** The district will generate a ranked waitlist for each program based on the lottery outcomes

SEAT ALLOCATION:

We anticipate that **fewer than 10 seats** will be allocated to the General HS Program and Aviation combined. The remainder will be allocated to the Magnet Program.

Out of District Transportation

WITHIN 20 MILES

Resident District Option

For students living within 20 miles of MHRD, the resident district must provide either transportation or aid-in-lieu of transportation.

The resident district decides what it will offer—there is no guarantee transportation will be provided.

OVER 20 MILES

Family Responsibility

For out-of-district students living over 20 miles from MHRD, transportation is solely the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

MHRD Transportation

For a fee, MHRD allows choice students to ride existing routes pending space availability.

Parents/guardians are required to drop off and pick up students at an assigned bus stop.

High School Placement

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT

School Assignment Policy

All admitted Choice students, regardless of program, will attend either **Morris Hills** or **Morris Knolls**, wherever a seat is available at the time of admission.

NO CHOICE OR WAITLIST

There is no opportunity to choose one school or the other, or to be placed on a waitlist for a specific school.

SIBLING PREFERENCE

Sibling Placement Option

Siblings of current choice students may be offered a seat at the sibling's current school if space is available at the time of admission.

Siblings of current MSE/APA students do not receive preference in the admissions process but may be offered a seat at the sibling’s current school if space is available at the time of admission.

Leaving the Choice Program

VOLUNTARY RETURN

Resident District Return

Students may opt to return to their resident district at any time.

RE-ENTRY POLICY

Reapplication Required

If a student withdraws from Morris Hills or Morris Knolls, they must reapply through the Choice program to re-enter the district.

There is no special consideration given in this case.

MAGNET & AVIATION

Program Withdrawal

If a student wishes to withdraw from the Magnet or Aviation Program, and there is no General High School seat available, the student must return to their resident district.

The student's Magnet or Aviation Choice seat will be offered to the next student on the waitlist.

Application Process

DUE NOVEMBER 24

Intent to Participate

Out-of-district students only. Submit by 11/24 to your resident district.

DUE NOVEMBER 24

Online Application

Complete and submit the application online at www.mhrd.org.

DUE NOVEMBER 24

Supplemental Materials

Submit all required supplemental materials electronically.

NOV 21 OR DEC 5

Math Admissions Test

Magnet only. Select preferred test date/time when applying online.



DECEMBER 15

Lottery

Lottery drawing held for General High School & Aviation applicants.

DECEMBER 21

Decision Notification

Admissions decisions emailed out to all applicants.

Contact Information

ADMINISTRATION
Dr. Nisha Zoeller
Assistant Superintendent

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MAGNET PROGRAM
Dr. Kevin Doyle
Magnet Program Coordinator

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AVIATION PROGRAM
Mr. Keith Bigora
Aviation Program Coordinator

kbigora@mhrd.org

ONLINE APPLICATION MATERIALS
All application materials are available online at www.mhrd.org (use the QR code on your folder)