Lottery FAQ Sheet

Who is eligible?

Students who reside in North Carolina, meet the age and grade requirements, and have submitted an application by the announced date are eligible for admission. An application must be submitted for each child entering the lottery. Rising kindergarteners must be 5 years old prior to August 31, 2019. (Charter schools may refuse admission to any student who has been expelled or suspended from a public school until the expulsion or suspension has expired.)

How much does it cost to attend The Exploris School?

Exploris is a free public charter school, so students attend for free!

Do we have to submit records from our previous school?

Once a student is enrolled in Exploris, records/transcripts will be requested from his/her previous school.

How do we get an application?

Applications can be completed online or in person at either campus. Information can be found on the school's website under the admissions tab. Families can set up an online SchoolMint account and complete an application for each child online. You can also call the school and request an application to be mailed or electronically sent beginning in November until the end of the application window on February 1, 2019.

Do we have to reapply every year?

Once a student is accepted and is attending the school, there is no need to reapply. Students who are placed on the waiting list and who are not enrolled in the school must reapply for the lottery in subsequent years.

When will the lottery take place and are we allowed to attend?

The lottery is conducted on the first Friday in March. The location will be made public and anyone may attend.

How does the lottery work?

A random computerized lottery is facilitated by a third party vendor and overseen by the Executive Director. It is certified by an unbiased outside observer. The lottery will be held for each grade and seats filled according to the lottery. Once all available seats are

filled, the lottery continues through the entire pool of applicants and a waiting list for each grade is established.

Does anyone receive priority admission?

According to Exploris board policy approved by the North Carolina State Board of Education, the school provides priority enrollment for children of full-time employees, siblings of currently enrolled students, children of current Board members, and children of families determined to be Economically Disadvantaged (those who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch). Please see application for details on priority eligibility. Families must indicate which priorities they qualify for on their application.

How will we be notified?

Families will be notified electronically after the lottery is held and informed whether they have been accepted or placed on our waitlist. Families may login to their SchoolMint account to check on their acceptance or waitlist status after the lottery is held. Additionally, parents are notified by email about next steps for enrollment and registration.

How does the waiting list work?

If a parent of a student declines, the open seat will be offered to the next applicant according to the priority designations defined in our lottery policy and waitlist order determined during the lottery. Please see below for important information about time limitations to accept or decline a seat.

How long do we have to accept or decline our seat?

Any student receiving a seat either through the initial lottery or through the waitlist will have a limited time to accept or decline the seat and, if offered the seat prior to the first day of school, must be present beginning the first day of school. Should a parent decline a spot, the open position will be offered to the next chronological applicant on the waiting list and these guidelines will apply. Outlined below are the time limitations to accept or decline a seat:

- From date of posting lottery results until June 1: 1 week to accept or decline a seat for the next school year and submit required enrollment paperwork
- From June 2 - to the first day of the new school year: 48 hours to accept or decline a seat for the upcoming school year and submit required enrollment paperwork

Important note: YOUR CHILD MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. If your child is not in school on the first day of school, the school will make reasonable efforts to contact the student's family via phone and email. If the school has

not heard from the family, the seat will be offered to the next student on the waitlist on the next day of school.

I have a child who is currently enrolled at Exploris. Do I have to submit an application for his/her sibling?

Yes. Only students who have submitted an application can be entered into our lottery. While siblings receive a preference, there is no guarantee of enrollment, particularly if multiple students with the sibling preference are applying for a limited number of spots.

What about multiple birth applications? Do twins or triplets get multiple chances for admission?

If multiple birth siblings apply for admission to a charter school and a lottery is needed, the charter school shall enter one surname into the lottery to represent all of the multiple birth siblings. If the surname of the multiple birth siblings is selected, then all of the multiple birth siblings shall be admitted as required by North Carolina state statutes.

Does Exploris have school bus transportation?

No. Exploris does not have school buses. Many of our families carpool, walk, bike, and use public transportation. Additionally, the school administration will work annually to identify transportation opportunities for children and share the information with parents and guardians.

Does Exploris have a school cafeteria?

No. Exploris does not have a school cafeteria. We work with outside vendors to provide lunch options for our students. The school administration will work with families that are economically disadvantaged to ensure that students have lunch at school.

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