



## 2019-2020 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 Q4). 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 submitted qualifying applications through the online lottery application webpage by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on April 30, 2019 will be 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 in the City of Atlanta or is a child of a current Drew Charter School board member or full-time employee.

### 4. What is the priority structure for admission for the 2019-2020 school year?

Admissions and enrollment priorities for the 2019-2020 school year are as follows.

#### 1. Priority A

- a. Children of Drew board members and full-time employees.
- b. Children enrolled in partner early learning programs\* who live in The Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood.

#### 2. Priority B

- a. Children who live in the Villages of East Lake.

#### 3. Priority C

- a. Siblings of current Drew students who were also enrolled during the 2016-2017 school year. The child must have been born on or before September 1, 2016. This priority will no longer exist in 2021-2022.

#### 4. Priority D

- a. Siblings of current Drew students (pre-K to 12) who live in East Lake or Kirkwood.
- b. Children who live in East Lake or Kirkwood.

#### 5. Priority E

- a. Siblings of current Drew students (pre-K to 12) who live in the City of Atlanta.
- b. Students who live in the City of Atlanta.

\* Early learning partners are: Sheltering Arms East Lake, East Lake Early Learning Academy and Cox Pre-K at Drew Charter School.



**5. Will Drew continue to prioritize serving economically disadvantaged students?**

Yes. Providing a high-quality education to economically disadvantaged children is an integral part of Drew's mission and purpose. The current charter includes a weighted lottery provision that can be used at the discretion of the Drew Board each year to ensure Drew continues to serve economically disadvantaged children.

**6. How will the weighted lottery be implemented in the 2019-2020 lottery?**

Drew will utilize a weighted lottery to increase the likelihood of serving more economically disadvantaged students. The Georgia Department of Education defines economically disadvantaged as a student whose family lives below the poverty line, qualifies for free or reduced-price meals or qualifies for federal benefits including SNAP, TANF, WIC, Section 8 or Medicaid. The 2019-2020 school year lottery will be weighted for all grade levels within Priorities C, D and E. Weights will be assigned as follows:

Grade	Weight
Pre-K - 5th	5:1
6th	4:1
7th-8th	5:1
9th	2:1
10th	3:1
11th	5:1
12th	2:1

These weights were determined by a formula approved by the Board of Directors, which examines the free and reduced-price meal rate at each grade level and determines the weight that will be used in order to increase the likelihood that Drew will achieve its goal of serving a population that is 65% percent economically disadvantaged.

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

Children in kindergarten through 11<sup>th</sup> grade who currently attend Drew will remain Drew students for the coming school year as long as they re-enroll with qualifying documentation within the re-enrollment period.

Students who are currently in the Cox Pre-K Program at Drew Charter School or Pre-K at Sheltering Arms East Lake must go through the lottery. Those students currently in the Cox Pre-K Program at Drew Charter School or Sheltering Arms East Lake who live in The Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood, or are students of full-time Drew employees or board members will be placed in Priority A. Students with current Drew siblings who have been continuously enrolled since the 2016-2017 school year will be in Priority C. Students not meeting the Priority C sibling criteria who live in other areas of the City of Atlanta will be in Priority E.

**8. 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 in order to balance class size and to follow best practices.



**9. When will the lottery take place?**

The lottery for the 2019-2020 school year will take place on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6 p.m. at Charles R. Drew Charter School Junior and Senior Academy, 300 Eva Davis Way SE, Atlanta, GA 30317.

**10. Can I come to the lottery?**

Parents/guardians and other adults are welcome to attend the lottery. Due to space, children may not attend.

**11. How does the lottery work?**

Applications will be organized by grade according to the school's charter admission priorities (see Q4). 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 PowerSchool Registration, a well-known provider of online registration management tools for charter schools.

Drawings will begin with pre-K and will continue, by grade, through grade twelve. Before each grade's drawing begins, the Head of School will announce the number of spots anticipated to be available in that grade. A representative of Drew's certified public accounting firm, Warren Averett, will observe the lottery and certify the results. Once the lottery results have been certified, they will be available for review on the Drew Charter School website at [www.drewcharterschool.org](http://www.drewcharterschool.org). It may take a day or more to certify the lottery results given the large number of applications received.

**12. Who do I talk to if I have questions during the lottery?**

During the lottery, staff will be available at the Lottery Information Desk, located in the theater lobby. All questions during the lottery should be directed to the Lottery Information Desk, not to the Head of School or representatives of Warren Averett. If you have a question leading up to the lottery, please contact the Enrollment Team at 404-450-0567 or [admissions@drewcharterschool.org](mailto:admissions@drewcharterschool.org).

**13. 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.

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

To determine if your address of residence is within Atlanta Public School District's attendance zone, visit the Atlanta Public Schools School Zone locator at: <https://maps.apsk12.org/>

**15. 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 and 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 (see Q27) are collected during the in-person enrollment period for students who are seated during the lottery.



**16. 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.

**17. 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.

**18. What if the student 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.

**19. If I am a current Drew parent who lives within the City of Atlanta but not in The Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood, will my student's sibling have priority to attend Drew Charter School?**

For the 2019-2020 school year lottery, if (i) your currently enrolled child has attended Drew since the 2016-2017 school year and (ii) the child's sibling was born before September 1, 2016, then the student's sibling would fall into Priority C as long as they both live with you in the City of Atlanta.

If your currently enrolled student has not attended Drew since the 2016-2017 school year the student's sibling will fall into Priority E as long as they both live with you in the City of Atlanta.

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

An acceptance letter will be e-mailed to the e-mail address provided on the lottery application (if one was given) no later than May 17, 2019 followed by a hardcopy of the acceptance letter (with enrollment information) sent via U.S. Postal Service to the address on the lottery application form. Those who are on the waitlist will also receive an email and a letter advising them of their status.

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

Parents/guardians of students who receive an offer of admission must accept or decline the offer by May 24, 2019 at 3 p.m. Offers are accepted by returning all elements listed in the Enrollment Checklist during the in-person enrollment period which ends on May 24, 2019. Offers may be declined by emailing [admissions@drewcharterschool.org](mailto:admissions@drewcharterschool.org). Offers to attend Drew that are neither accepted nor declined by 3 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2019 will be considered expired, and that space may be made available to the next student on the waitlist.

**22. What happens when my child's name is put on the waitlist?**

Your child will remain on the waitlist throughout the 2019-2020 school year until a spot opens in the applicable grade. Please ensure the school has your most updated contact information (address, phone numbers) so we can contact you if a spot becomes available.

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



When your student is next in line on the waitlist and a spot becomes available, you will receive a phone call from Drew extending a verbal offer of admission. A letter with a written offer of admission will be mailed that same day and you will have five business days from the date of the letter to accept or decline the offer. You will also need to come to the school to complete the enrollment process (including current proof of residency). If you do not respond to the offer by 5 p.m. on the fifth business day after the date of the offer letter, the offer will expire and the space may be offered to the next child on the waitlist.

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

Your student will remain on the waiting list until s/he is offered admission to Drew during the 2019-2020 school year, or until you elect to remove him/her from the waitlist. The waitlist for the 2019-2020 school year will be vacated on the last day of school in May 2020 and will not carry over to the 2020-2021 school year. Parents/guardians may resubmit an application online for the 2020-2021 school year beginning in February 2020.

**25. If I missed the application deadline, will the application still be available?**

Yes. Applications submitted after April 30, 2019 will be added to the end of the waitlist in the order received.

**26. What if I made an error on my application and entered the wrong grade information for my child?**

During the application window, please contact the Enrollment Team at 404-450-0567 or [admissions@drewcharterschool.org](mailto:admissions@drewcharterschool.org) if you believe you made an error on your child's application. After the lottery occurs, if the wrong grade information was entered, the child will be placed at the bottom of the waitlist for the correct grade for his/her respective enrollment priority.

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

If you receive an acceptance letter, for your child to enroll at Drew you will need to complete in-person enrollment by May 24, 2019 at 3 p.m. EST. The Enrollment Checklist, located on the Enrollment Tab at [www.DrewCharterSchool.org](http://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 is seated.*

**28. If I believe 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 economically disadvantaged status that may increase, though does not guarantee, your child's chances of admission (see Q6). 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 is seated.*

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



If you receive an acceptance letter, for your child to enroll at Drew you will need to complete in-person enrollment by May 24, 2019 at 3 p.m. EST. The Enrollment Packet Checklist, located on the Enrollment Tab at [www.DrewCharterSchool.org](http://www.DrewCharterSchool.org), provides a list of all documents required, including proof of economically disadvantaged status. *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 is seated.*

### **30. What if I move during the enrollment period?**

If you move before the lottery application window closes (April 30, 2019), contact the Enrollment Team at [admissions@drewcharterschool.org](mailto:admissions@drewcharterschool.org) or 404-450-0567. Your previous application will need to be voided and you will need to submit a new application with your new address.

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 both addresses.
- b. If the new address is a lower priority than the address submitted on your application, you forfeit your seat and are placed at the bottom of the waitlist for the enrollment priority of your new address.

See Q13 for additional residency information.

### **31. Will residents of Olmstead at East Lake be considered residents of the East Lake neighborhood for enrollment and admissions purposes at Drew?**

Yes. Olmstead at East Lake has been officially added by the City of Atlanta as a part of the East Lake neighborhood.

Please contact the Drew Enrollment Team with any additional questions at 404-450-0567 or [admissions@drewcharterschool.org](mailto:admissions@drewcharterschool.org).