



## **Charles R. Drew Charter School 2018-2019 School Year Lottery Frequently Asked Questions**

### **General Charter and Admissions FAQs**

#### **1. When did the renewed charter go into effect?**

- a. The current charter contract went into effect on July 1, 2017 and will run through June 30, 2022. The current charter includes revised priorities for admission and enrollment at Drew Charter School.

#### **2. Why did the admissions and enrollment priorities change?**

- a. The charter admissions and enrollment priorities are consistent with Drew's 2015-2020 strategic plan developed and approved by the Drew Board of Directors with significant input from the community.
- b. The admission and enrollment priorities are intended to make Drew more of a neighborhood school by serving more students from The Villages of East Lake and the East Lake and Kirkwood neighborhoods.

#### **3. What is the priority structure for admission for the 2018-2019 school year?**

- a. Admissions and enrollment priorities for the 2018-2019 school year are as follows:
  1. Priority A
    - a. Drew full time employees' and board members' children
    - b. Children enrolled in a Partner Pre-K Program\* who live in The Villages of East Lake, East Lake and Kirkwood
  2. Priority B
    - a. The Villages of East Lake
  3. Priority C
    - a. Siblings of students enrolled in Drew Pre-K through 12th grade during both the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years and who are born on or before September 1, 2016
  4. Priority D
    - a. Siblings of students who enrolled in Drew Pre-K through 12th grade during the 2017-2018 school year or later who live in East Lake or Kirkwood
    - b. East Lake and Kirkwood students
  5. Priority E
    - a. Siblings of students who enrolled in Drew Pre-K through 12th grade during the 2017-2018 school year or later who

live in the City of Atlanta, outside of East Lake and Kirkwood

- b. City of Atlanta students, outside of East Lake and Kirkwood

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

These priorities will remain the same until the 2021-2022 school year when they will change slightly as provided for in the charter agreement.

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

- a. No. The charter agreement specifically prioritizes students who live in The Villages of East Lake, East Lake and Kirkwood. While Olmstead has been annexed into the City of Atlanta, it is not part of the Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood.

**5. If I am a City of Atlanta parent who lives outside of The Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood, will my currently enrolled child still be able to attend Drew Charter School?**

- a. Yes, your child may continue to attend Drew Charter School as long as your child lives with you in the City of Atlanta.

**6. If I am a City of Atlanta parent who lives outside of The Villages of East Lake, East Lake or Kirkwood, will my student's sibling have priority to attend Drew Charter School?**

- a. For the 2018 – 2019 school year lottery, if (i) your currently enrolled child attended Drew during both the 2016-2017 and the 2017-2018 school years 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.
- b. If your currently enrolled student did not attend Drew during both the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, the student's sibling will fall into priority E as long as they both live with you in the City of Atlanta.

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

- a. Yes. Providing a high-quality education to economically disadvantaged children is an integral part of Drew's mission and purpose.
- b. 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.

**8. How will the weighted lottery be implemented in the 2018-2019 lottery?**

- a. Drew's strategic plan and charter agreement both set forth a commitment to serve children who are economically disadvantaged. Drew's goal is to serve a

mixed income student population that includes approximately 65% of students who are economically disadvantaged. One of the tools available to Drew to achieve this goal is a weighted 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 lunch, or whose family qualifies for federal benefits including SNAP, TANF, WIC, Section 8 or Medicaid.

- b. The 2018-2019 school year lottery will be weighted for all grade levels for Priorities C, D and E. Weighting by grade for the 2018 – 2019 lottery will be as follows:

Grade	Weight
Pre K - 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:1
8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	4:1
10 <sup>th</sup>	2:1
11 <sup>th</sup>	4:1
12 <sup>th</sup>	3:1

These weights were determined by a formula approved by the Board of Directors, which examines the Free and Reduced Lunch rate and 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% economically disadvantaged.

**General Lottery FAQs**

**1. Who participates in the lottery?**

- a. All prospective students who submitted qualifying applications through the online lottery application webpage by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on April 30, 2018 will be included in the lottery and will either be offered a space at Drew Charter School or placed on a waiting list.

**2. What is a qualifying application?**

- a. A qualifying application is an application that is completed with the requested information for children of the age to attend grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade who live in the City of Atlanta or are a child of a current, full-time Drew Charter School staff or board member.

**3. Do children who attended Drew last year go through a lottery for a space next year?**

- a. Children in grades kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade who attended Drew last year are Drew students and will remain so for the coming school year as long as they reenroll with qualifying documentation within the reenrollment period.
- b. Students who are currently in the Cox Pre-K Program at Drew Charter School or 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 staff or board members will be in Priority A in the 2018 – 2019 lottery. Students with siblings who were enrolled during both the 2016 – 2017 and 2017 – 2018 school years will be in Priority C, and students not meeting the Priority C sibling criteria who live in other areas of the city of Atlanta will be in Priority E.

**4. How many spots are available in each grade?**

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

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

- a. The lottery for the 2018-2019 school year will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Charles R. Drew Charter School Junior and Senior Academy, 300 East Lake Blvd SE, Atlanta, GA 30317.

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

- a. Parents/guardians and other adults are welcome to attend the lottery, however, children may not attend.

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

- a. Applications will be organized by grade according to the school’s charter admission priorities (see Q3 in the General Charter and Admissions FAQs section of this document). 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.

This year’s 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, Head of School Don Doran 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) on

May 18, 2018. It may take a day or more to certify the lottery results given the large number of applications received.

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

- a. 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 teachers, staff or board members of Drew Charter School. Students claiming a Priority must be able to prove their qualification for such Priority on both the day of enrollment and the first day of school.

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

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

**10. How is a student's address determined and verified?**

- a. 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.

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

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

**12. What if the student is a resident in The Villages AND a sibling of a child already enrolled?**

- a. Students who meet more than one priority will be given the highest applicable priority.

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

- a. 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 18, 2018, and a hardcopy of the acceptance letter (with an enrollment packet) will be sent via U.S. Postal Service to the home address on the lottery application form. Those who are on the waiting list will receive a letter advising them of their status on the waiting list for the applicable grade.

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

- a. Parents/guardians of students who receive an offer of admission must accept or decline the offer by May 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Offers may be accepted by returning in person the enrollment packet (including current proof of residency) included with the offer letter to Drew Charter School no later than 3:00 pm., Friday, May 25, 2018. Offers may be declined by calling the Enrollment Office by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May

25, 2018. Offers to attend Drew that are neither accepted nor declined by 3:00 p.m., Friday, May 25, 2018 will be deemed to have expired and that space may be made available to the next student on the waiting list.

**15. What happens when my child's name is put on the waiting list?**

- a. Your child will remain on the waiting list throughout the 2018-2019 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.

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

- a. 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 (5) 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 packet (including current proof of residency and current proof of Economically Disadvantaged status (if applicable)). If you do not respond to the offer by 5:00 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 waiting list.

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

- a. Your student will remain on the waiting list until s/he is offered admission to Drew during the 2018-2019 school year, or until you elect to remove him/her from the waiting list. The waiting list for the 2018-2019 school year will be vacated on the last day of school in May 2019 and will not carry over to the 2019-2020 school year. Parents/guardians may resubmit an application online for the 2019-2020 school year beginning in February 2019. Applications for enrollment in the 2019-2020 school year will be accepted from February through April 2019.

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

- a. Staff will be available at the Lottery Information Desk, located in the theater lobby, during the lottery. All questions during the lottery should be directed to the Lottery Information Desk, not to Mr. Doran, Head of School, or the representative of Warren Averett.

**19. If I missed the application deadline in 2018, will the application be held anyway in case the waiting list is used up?**

- a. Yes. Applications submitted after April 30, 2018 will be logged in with the date and time received noted and added to the end of the waiting list created by the lottery in the order received.

**20. If my child is not offered a spot at Drew this year, will my application from this year carry over until next year?**

- a. No, a new application must be submitted. Applications for enrollment in the 2019-2020 school year will be accepted from February through April 2019.

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

- a. 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.

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

- a. The child will be placed at the bottom of the wait list for his/her respective enrollment priority or attendance zone.

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

- a. If you receive an **Acceptance Letter** for your child to enroll at Drew, you will be asked to complete and submit an Enrollment Packet by May 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. EST. The Enrollment Packet Checklist provides a list of all documents that would need to be submitted with the Enrollment Packet. The Enrollment Packet checklist can be viewed online on the school's website ([www.DrewCharterSchool.org](http://www.DrewCharterSchool.org)) under the Enrollment Tab. *Please note, Enrollment Packet Checklist documents should not be submitted when you complete the lottery application for your child.*

**24. What documents are needed as proof of residency during enrollment?**

- a. If you receive an **Acceptance Letter** for your child to enroll at Drew, you will be asked to complete and submit an Enrollment Packet by May 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. EST. The Enrollment Packet Checklist provides a list of all documents, including proof of residency documents that must be submitted with the Enrollment Packet. (The Enrollment Packet checklist can be viewed online on the school's website ([www.DrewCharterSchool.org](http://www.DrewCharterSchool.org)) under the Enrollment Tab. *Please note, proof of residency documents should not be submitted when you complete the lottery application for your child.* You will only need to submit these documents as part of the Enrollment Packet if you receive an Acceptance Letter.

**25. If I believe my child meets the economically disadvantaged preference, when will I have the opportunity to provide this information?**

- a. When completing the online lottery application for any grade level, you will have the opportunity to answer questions in the Economically Disadvantaged Information section of the application that may increase, though does not guarantee, your child's chance of admission. Please note that answering Economically Disadvantaged Information questions on the application is optional. *Proof of economically*

*disadvantaged preference documents should not be submitted when you complete the lottery application for your child. If applicable, you will only need to submit these documents as part of the Enrollment Packet if you receive an Acceptance Letter.*

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

- a. If you receive an Acceptance Letter for your child to enroll at Drew, you will be asked to complete and submit an Enrollment Packet by May 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. EST. The Enrollment Packet Checklist provides a list of all documents, including proof of economically disadvantaged status documents (if applicable), that would need to be submitted with the Enrollment Packet. (The Enrollment Packet checklist can be viewed online on the school's website ([www.DrewCharterSchool.org](http://www.DrewCharterSchool.org)) under the Enrollment Tab. *Please note, proof of economically disadvantaged preference documents should not be submitted when you complete the lottery application for your child. If applicable, you will only need to submit these documents as part of the Enrollment Packet if you receive an Acceptance Letter.*