

# Open Enrollment, Admissions, and Residency Policy

2018 - 2019

Cincinnati | Columbus

## **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

The School Governing Authority shall permit the enrollment of students from adjacent or from other districts in the State, provided that each enrollment is in accordance with the laws of this State, the provisions of this policy, and the administrative guidelines established to implement this policy.

### **ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES**

Admission to the School is open to any student in grades 9 through 12 and at least 15 years old but not older than 22 who resides in any district in the State of Ohio. The School will not charge tuition. The School will not discriminate in its pupil admission policies or practices on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, sex, intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or any other basis. All students of the School must be residents of the State of Ohio. Admission is open to students on a statewide basis. Upon admission of a student with a disability, the School will comply with all federal and state laws regarding the education of students with disabilities.

The School will be applying for Dropout Prevention and Recovery designation from the Ohio Department of Education. As such, the School will comply with and may limit the enrollment of students as required to meet the requirements set forth in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-102-10.

The School will admit the number of students that does not exceed the capacity of the School's programs, classes, grade levels or facilities. The School will not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability. Priority for enrollment shall be given to students that reside in the district in which the School is located and returning students. Preference may also be given to siblings of students attending the school the previous year and students who are children of full-time staff members employed by the school. The preference provided to children of full-time staff members shall be less than five percent of the school's total enrollment. If on the deadline date for a lottery drawing the number of applicants exceeds the capacity restrictions set for the School's programs, classes, grade levels or facilities, a lottery drawing will be held. The lottery drawing places children in order for possible enrollment into the school. As the School operates and accepts students year round, if other places become available (after the lottery), students are accepted from a prioritized wait list based on the results of the lottery or, if there is no wait list, then on a first come first serve basis. If a lottery is necessary, it shall take place at a public location. All parents of children selected in the lottery will be notified of the selection by certified mail or by telephone call. Parents will have up to seven (7) days from receipt of the certified mail to contact the School regarding their decision. If a parent does not respond within seven (7) days of receipt of the certified mail, the school will select another child from the lottery. Notwithstanding the above, in the event the racial composition of the enrollment of the School is violative of a federal desegregation order,

the School shall take any and all corrective measures to comply with the desegregation order.

### **PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

In order for a student to be admitted the following must be completed/submitted: the registration form and such other enrollment materials that the School deems necessary; copies of the child's original birth certificate or such alternative set forth below in the Records Upon Enrollment section of this policy, current immunization record as mandated by law, and proof of residence and parent/ guardian ID. In addition, all custody or court orders pertaining to or allocating parental rights and responsibilities for the care of the student and designating a residential parent and legal custodian of the child shall be provided. If the student has an IEP/ETR/504 Plan, copies need to be provided before enrollment is considered complete. Students may also need to complete an academic assessment before being placed in a classroom.

### **RECORDS TRANSFER**

The School will verify eligibility according to residency and will report names and addresses to the local school district of those students who are enrolled in the School. In addition, once a student is enrolled, records are requested via mail on form letters, signed by a parent or guardian, from the appropriate school of last attendance. Follow-up calls are made to buildings that have not forwarded records as requested. This notice also serves as notice to the student's district of residence as required by law.

# RESIDENCY AND ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Although the School has a statewide open enrollment policy-permitting enrollment from any school or district in the State of Ohio, it is still necessary to establish a student's school district of residence before they can be enrolled in the School. The school district in which a parent or child resides is the location the parent or student has established as the primary residence and where substantial family activity takes place. Residence is a place where important family activity takes place during the significant part of each day: a place where the family eats, sleeps, works, relaxes and plays. It must be a place, in short, which can be called "home". One cannot establish a residence merely by purchasing/leasing a house or an apartment or even by furnishing such a house or apartment so that it is suitable for the owner's use. No single factor is determinative; residency will be established by the totality of the circumstances. The following documents can be used to establish proof of residency for verification of a child's ability to enroll in the School. These items must be current, be in the parent's/quardian's name, and include a street address. The School shall require only one form of proof of residency for enrollment. A post office box address cannot be used to validate residency records:

- Deed or current real property tax bill
- Lease agreement
- Mortgage statement
- Utility statement or receipt of utility installation issued within ninety (90) days of the date of enrollment
- Bank Statement
- Current homeowner's or renter's insurance declaration
- Paycheck or paystub issued to the parent or student within ninety (90) days of the date of enrollment that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence
- Any other official document issued to the parent or student that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence that does not conflict with the guidelines issued by the Superintendent of Public Instruction

If <u>our School and the student's</u> home <u>district</u> (<u>district of residency</u>) <u>disagree</u> about residency, this policy shall prevail. In such a case, parents may be asked to provide additional information in order to resolve the dispute; however, the school is not obligated to ask for additional information based on other public schools' policies.

If a student loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 11434a, or if a child who is such a homeless child or youth changes temporary living arrangements, the district in which the student is entitled to attend school shall be determined in accordance with division (F)(13) of section 3313.64 of the Revised Code and the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act," 42 U.S.C.11431 et seq.

# RECORDS UPON ENROLLMENT

Upon receipt of completed enrollment forms, a request for records will be made within twenty-four hours from the public or non-public elementary or secondary school the pupil most recently attended.

If the records are not received within 14 days of the date of request, or if the pupil does not present any one of the following: (1) a certification of birth; (2) a passport or attested transcript of a passport filed with a registrar of passports at a point of entry of the United States showing the date and place of birth of the child; (3) an attested transcript of the certificate of birth; (4) an attested transcript of the certificate of baptism or other religious record showing the date and place of birth of the child; (5) an attested transcript of a hospital record showing the date and place of birth of the child; or (6) a birth affidavit, the Principal or his/her designee will notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the area where the pupil resides of this fact and of the possibility that the pupil may be a missing child.

No student, at the time of initial entry or at the beginning of each school year shall be permitted to remain in school for more than fourteen days if the student has not met the minimum immunization requirements established by the Ohio Department of Health or the student presents written evidence satisfactory to the person in charge of admission and acceptable as an exception to such requirement in law.

### AT-RISK DEFINITIONS

Both minor and adult aged students can be defined as "at-risk" using a variety of different indicators. The indicators listed below is not an all-inclusive list but they are the most common identifiers that we believe affect student learning and can specifically stop students from earning a high school diploma if not acknowledged and addressed in the school setting.

- Having a disability or illness
- · Have experienced abuse or trauma
- Exhibited behavior problems
- Assessed at below grade levels in content areas, specifically reading and math
- Assessed at one grade level or more behind their cohort age groups
- Family issues such as poverty, little parental involvement in education or emphasis on education, mental illness
- The student is a parent
- Criminal history
- History of chronic truancy
- Credit deficient when compared to peers

Acknowledging these potential barriers, and then assisting in removing them by developing relationships and utilizing community resources is a key component to the success of our school.