

Natomas Charter School Policy For Site Based Application and Public Random Drawing/ (Lottery)

Overview

Natomas Charter School (“NCS”) currently has three site-based programs, each of which is tailored to the unique needs of its own specific student population and has its own specific program goals and capacity.

All students who wish to attend NCS site-based programs shall be enrolled subject to program capacity. If there are more applications than program capacity, enrollment, except for pupils currently enrolled in the program, shall be determined by a public random drawing conducted in accordance with the procedures described below.

NCS strongly encourages all potential applicants to review the NCS charter and published information on each of the NCS programs prior to submitting an application.

Assurances

In addition to requirements imposed under law, NCS shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations, shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability.

Open Application Periods

An “open application period” is a period in which students interested in attending one of the NCS programs may submit a fully completed application packet to NCS for enrollment consideration.

There will be one “open application period” within a school year, which shall be publicized. These dates are subject to change due to weekends and holidays.¹

The dates of the open application period, and an approximate number of enrollment spaces/openings per grade-level, per open application period for each program will be posted in writing and/or on the NCS website and at the administration building of each campus.

At the conclusion of the open application period, the applications will be counted to determine whether the number of applications submitted for the program exceeds the program’s established capacity.

Audition for the Performing and Fine Arts Academy (revised 1/07)

NCS will hold auditions prior to the public random drawing for applicants for the Performing and Fine Arts Academy. Auditions may provide a preference in admissions as described below. The audition process and criteria shall be nondiscriminatory on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender or disability.²

Public Random Drawing

Except for existing pupils of the specific Natomas Charter School program, enrollment shall be determined by a public random drawing if the number of applications submitted for the program exceeds the program's established capacity.

The date, time, and location of each public random drawing will be confirmed and publicized at least two weeks in advance of the public random drawings on-line and at the school site. The public is welcome to attend these drawings. Parents and guardians may attend the drawing, but children and students may not.

Once the allocated number of spaces/openings per grade level have been drawn in the public random drawing, applicants will be placed on a waitlist in the order drawn in the public random drawing.³

Application Preferences

The public random drawings shall be conducted in stages in accordance with the following preferences in the priority order listed below. These preferences are authorized in accordance with applicable law.

- Priority 1: Students currently attending the specific program shall be automatically re-enrolled for the following year.⁴
- Priority 2: Children of NCS Full-Time Employees and/or current or former Board of Directors.^{5,6}
- Priority 3: Applicants for the Performing and Fine Arts Academy who score in the top 15% of the audition criteria.⁷
- Priority 4: Siblings of students who currently attend the same program to which the applicant is applying, who reside in the District.⁸
- Priority 5: Siblings of students who currently attend any NCS program, who reside in the District.
- Priority 6: Siblings (or children) of NCS alumni who successfully completed the same NCS site-based program who reside in the District.
- Priority 7: Students currently enrolled in NCS who have successfully completed the previous full school year in a NCS program other than the program for which the applicant applied, who reside in the District.⁹
- Priority 8: Siblings (or children) of NCS alumni who successfully completed any other NCS program from the NCS program for which the applicant applied, who reside in the District.
- Priority 9: Students on the waitlist from the previous year for the same program for which the applicant applied, who reside in the District.

- Priority 10: All other applicants residing within the NUSD.
- Priority 11: Siblings of students who currently attend the same NCS program to which the applicant is applying, who reside outside of the District.
- Priority 12: Siblings of students who currently attend any NCS program, who reside outside of the District.
- Priority 13: Siblings (or children) of NCS alumni who successfully completed the same NCS site-based program who reside outside of the District.
- Priority 14: Students currently enrolled in NCS who have successfully completed the previous full school year in a NCS program other than the program for which the applicant applied, who reside outside of the District.⁹
- Priority 15: Siblings (or children) of NCS alumni who successfully completed any other NCS site-based or non site-based program from the NCS program for which the applicant applied, who reside outside of the District.
- Priority 16: Students on the waitlist from the previous year for the same program for which the applicant applied, who reside outside of the district.
- Priority 17: All other out -of -district applicants.

If an application has been intentionally misrepresented, the application shall be invalidated. Upon notice, the applicants will, however, be granted an opportunity to respond within 5 school days.

Lottery Drawing Within Preferences

If the number of applications within a preference priority exceeds the program's established capacity (and there are no other lower ranked priority status student applications), application acceptance shall be determined by a public random drawing of the students within the preference category.

Issues Not Covered Under this Policy

In the case that these procedures herein do not cover a situation that arises during the admissions process the Executive Director will take any additional steps necessary to execute the admissions process.

¹ If needed due to a shortage of applications, additional "open application periods" can be opened at the discretion of the NCS Board.

² Upon request, the audition process shall be modified to provide reasonable accommodations for a student with a disability.

³ Students placed on a waitlist and called to fill an available opening will lose their placement on the waitlist if they do not enroll at the time of the offer.

⁴ Any right to re-enrollment in the next grade level is subject to the expulsion and retention policies of NCS.

⁵ "Children" are defined as a biological, adopted, or foster son or daughter or stepson or daughter through marriage, residing within the same household.

⁶ The NCS Board of Directors shall include all elected/appointed Board members and elected/appointed Advisors to the Board.

⁷ The established "top15%" may be modified by the school's administration. No more than 33% of a specific grade level, or openings for a specific grade level, will be comprised of students who have received an audition preference.

⁸ "Sibling" is defined as any brother or sister (either blood, step, adopted, or foster) residing within the same household as the student and/or alumni. Twins shall not receive any preference other than the established "Sibling" preference.

⁹ "Full school year" is defined as having attended for the full school year or a combination of attendance and on the waitlist for a full year.