



ATTLEBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) School Choice Program School Year 2019-2020

School Choice Overview

According to Massachusetts General Law, all school-age children who live in Massachusetts are entitled to attend a public school free of charge. Most children attend school in their home district, which is the school district in which they reside. The School Choice Program at Attleboro Public Schools (APS) allows family members an opportunity to have their student(s) attend APS while residing in a surrounding town. This program is made possible by the provisions of [M.G.L. c. 76, §§ 12B](#), [M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37L](#), and [M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37H](#).

Can anyone participate in School Choice?

Any family residing in Massachusetts may apply for the pre-defined number of School Choice seats in specified grade levels within the Attleboro Public Schools.

How are the number of School Choice seats determined?

Based upon projected enrollment, a pre-defined number of School Choice seats in specified grade levels and schools are allocated for the School Choice Program prior to the beginning of each school year. Due to changing enrollment numbers, the number of School Choice seats in specific grade levels at certain schools are subject to change each year. Application to the School Choice Program in Attleboro does not guarantee a seat for prospective students.

How are School Choice students selected?

School Choice in the Attleboro Public Schools is conducted through an application and lottery process to select School Choice students for the 2019-2020 school year. Applications are accepted from **May 20, 2019 through June 7, 2019 until 3:00PM**. A random, blind lottery will be held the week of June 10th to select school choice students. Families will be notified via email and letter the following week.

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THE ATTLEBORO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE U.S. CIVIL SERVICE RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND THE TITLE IX EDUCATIONAL AMENDMENTS OF 1972 PART 8 SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TO ALL INDIVIDUALS AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, AGE, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR RELIGION.

How many School Choice seats are there in the 2019-2020 school year?

The openings are:

- Eleven, grade 5 seats in middle school
- Sixteen, grade 9 seats at Attleboro High School

How will I know if my student has been accepted?

Each family will receive a letter of their school choice status (accepted, not accepted) following the lottery. Notice of Acceptance letters will also detail the process for registering the student in the school to which they have been assigned. If student is accepted and the offer is declined, family members release that seat entirely for that school year. Please note that declining an offer of School Choice does not preclude application in subsequent years.

Notice of Acceptance letters need to be signed and returned to the address below no later than Monday June 28, 2019:

**Office of the Superintendent of Attleboro Public Schools
School Choice Program
100 Rathbun Willard Drive
Attleboro, MA 02703**

Is there a waiting list?

A waiting list is created when applications exceed the number of allocated seats. Only students who applied for the 2019-2020 school year are on the waiting list for that specific school year. At the end of the school year, all lists are purged for the new group of applicants.

Will mailing academic records, MCAS scores, letters of recommendation or student resumes in advance help a student get selected for a School Choice seat?

No. The Attleboro Public School district selects students via a blind, random lottery. It is important to note that any misleading information on the application could be cause for APS to withdraw its offer of School Choice enrollment.

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How will APS get all required information from the sending district?

Part of the School Choice application packet includes a Request for Records, which must be signed and returned with the application. Upon acceptance into a School Choice seat, APS will send the student record request to the sending district.

How will applicant siblings be processed?

Each School Choice application is unique to one applicant. Siblings of students already enrolled through school choice must also apply and go through the lottery process. Preference for siblings in the same grade level is at the discretion to APS administration. Please clearly indicate on EACH application if this situation applies to the prospective students' family.

Do families pay tuition for School Choice seats?

No. Tuition charges are handled through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Families are responsible for paying any student activity, sports or extra-curricular fees as per Attleboro Public School policies and procedures.

Is transportation provided for school choice students?

No. Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the student's family members.

Do accepted students need to reapply each year?

If your student is accepted into the School Choice Program, the student is entitled to attend Attleboro Public Schools under the same terms and conditions as other APS students through high school graduation. Enrollment must be continuous. School Choice students who withdraw from Attleboro Public Schools will need to reapply for reentry into APS.

Can School Choice students participate in sports?

Yes. School choice students are eligible to participate in any school-sponsored activity. Students who are participating in athletics are subject to MIAA regulations.

Is the discipline process different for School Choice students?

No. School Choice students are held to the same standards, both personally and academically, as any other student in the district. District policies apply to all students enrolled in Attleboro Public Schools.

What happens if the family moves?

Prior to the move, contact the student's principal at the assigned school to notify them of enrollment status in APS, or to update contact information.

Can the student transfer back to their previous school?

Yes, students can return to their previous school at any time. Please notify APS and the receiving district as soon as plans are solidified. Both districts will need to update the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education records.

If the student transfers out, can they return without going through the application process again?

No. Students who leave the district will be required to complete a School Choice application again upon desired reentry to the district.

Once accepted into the School Choice seat, how are students enrolled?

Once family members receive the Notice of Acceptance letter, they will need to make an appointment with Colleen Jeffery 508.222.0012 x 1159 to register their student. Please examine the [APS registration requirements](#) carefully prior to coming in during specified registration time frames. Enrollment is not final until all required documents have been received and reviewed. Required documents include the student's complete student record, including but not limited to any incidents involving suspension or violation of criminal acts or any incident reports in which the student was charged with any suspended act. Please see [M.G.L. c. 71 § 37L](#).

The Attleboro Public Schools are committed to ensuring that it shall not discriminate in the admission of any child for reason of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, gender identity or expression, homeless status, pregnancy and/or pregnancy related conditions.