Highlands P-TECH Admissions Policy

SAISD CHOICE SCHOOLS

At SAISD, we believe that all children should have access to a variety of school options regardless of their academic abilities or where they live. We know that all kids are unique individuals. They engage with learning in different ways, they aspire to different careers, andthey are interested in different subjects.

Choice Schools and Magnet Programs offer specialized academic programming designed tobest fit the individual interests of students. An application is required to gain admission to these schools. Admission is based on a lottery system* and is open to all students living in Bexar county and surrounding areas.

**The lottery is a blind, randomized, computerized process conducted at the district level. Thedistrict utilizes a "Controlled Choice" framework to ensure equity and access for historically disadvantaged students.*

Families are placed into appropriate categories, then the online platform conducts the lotteryaccording to programmed lottery parameters. The Office of Access and Enrollment Services (OAES) determines lottery guidelines for each campus.

CHOICE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS ENROLLMENT PROCESS

The following administrative procedure guides the District's policy for unified enrollment andthe controlled choice framework according to Policy FDB(LOCAL).

Choice schools and programs include, but are not limited to, in-District charters, magnets, andearly college high schools. The Superintendent or designee shall develop regulations, procedures, guidelines, and timelines for enrollment into all choice schools and choice programs and shall ensure families have timely access to this information.

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Choice schools are open-enrollment schools that offer school wide programmatic models and pedagogical philosophies that are aligned with national best practices. Different from choice programs, at choice schools all students participate in the model in its entirety. Examples of these models include, but are not limited to, the Montessori method, single-gender, STEM, and performing and visual arts. Some choice schools do not have attendance boundaries and are open to students living within and outside of the District.

Choice programs are offered at traditional neighborhood campuses whose implementation of specific themes and pedagogical philosophies align with national best practices. Unlike choice schools, choice programs are not school wide but are limited to a designated number of students per cohort. Examples of choice programs include magnet programs at comprehensive high schools offering engineering, International Baccalaureate, health and law professions and dual language programs at elementary schools. Typically, choice programs give priority to students residing within the established attendance boundary and may be open to students living outside of it.

ENTRY INTO CHOICE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Entry into Choice Schools and Programs occurs through an annual application and selection process that is centrally managed by the District through the OAES. The OAES uses two methods for selection. Campuses without academic entry requirements will utilize a blind, computerized lottery process. Campuses with academic entry requirements will utilize a holistic, rubric-based selection process.

The OAES will publicize selection criteria for all Choice Schools and Programs participating in the lottery or holistic, rubric-based selection process prior to the opening of the selection and application window. In select instances, entry into Choice Schools may occur through a district generated placement process, including the in-district

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transfer process (see Transfers into Choice Schools with Attendance Boundaries) or the bilingual education cluster procedure (see Bilingual Education Students). A student accepted and enrolled in a Choice School or Program may stay at the school for the duration of the grade levels offered for which the student qualifies without having to reapply.

LOTTERY PROCESS

Choice Schools and Programs without academic entry requirements utilize a controlled choice lottery process for accepting students. All lotteries are blind, computerized, and conducted at the district level to control for bias.

Prior to the opening of the application window, the OAES will meet with the administration of all campuses without academic entry requirements to determine which grades will host a lottery, the number of seats available for the upcoming school year based on capacity, and finalize controlled choice parameters

HOW TO APPLY

Visit **www.saisdchoice.com** to learn more about how to apply.

Office of Access and Enrollment Services

1931 E. Houston St., San Antonio, TX 78202

Phone: **210-554-2660**

Text: **210-309-3259**

Email: **enroll@saisd.net**