

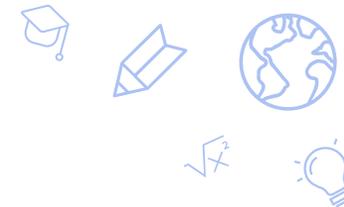


SPCSA Lottery Information



February 15, 2022





OVERVIEW

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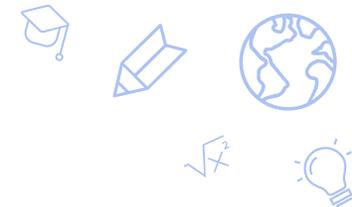
Lottery Requirements

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Allowable Enrollment Preferences

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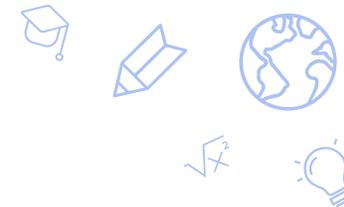
Weighted Lotteries



Public Charter Schools

- Are free and open to all students
- Have no admission criteria to submit an application
- Shall not discriminate ([NRS 388A.453\(6\)](#) & [NAC 388A.538](#))
- Have enrollment caps

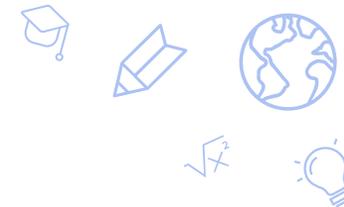
Because all schools have enrollment caps, lotteries are used to ensure a fair and equitable admission process for all applicants if demand is high



General Admission Process

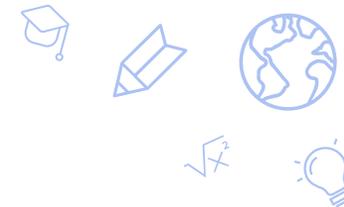
Public charter schools and networks manage their own application window and lottery dates!

- All applications are accepted during the window, which must be at least 45 days
 - If fewer pupils apply than there are available seats, no lottery is necessary
 - If more pupils apply than there are available seats, a lottery is required, even if it is just for a single grade level.
 - The lottery must include all eligible students *no matter the order in which the applications are received!*
- Students and families are to be notified shortly after the enrollment window closes or a lottery is conducted. If a lottery is required, schools should maintain a numbered list of all students, including those on the waitlist
- If a student submits an application after the window, their name should be added to the waitlist in the order the application is received



A Few Additional Reminders

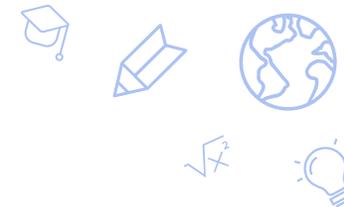
- As previously stated, public charter schools may not prohibit a student from submitting an application due to race, gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and gender. Additionally, schools may not make admission decisions on:
 - Prior academic achievement or tests
 - Interviews or Letters of Recommendations
 - Financial Incentives
- A two-part enrollment process is required:
 - Prior to lottery → Application forms (Name, DOB, Age, Grade, Contact Info)
 - After the lottery → Enrollment packet (Health info, IEP, EL, emergency contact)
- The SPCSA will review application forms annually, and may ask schools for lottery results and related information ([NAC 388A.538](#)). Schools are strongly encouraged to make forms available in Spanish when released, but they must be available in all language upon request.



Enrollment Preferences (NRS 388A.456)

- Public charter schools may give some students enrollment priority. These are the most common:
 - Siblings
 - Children of employees, members of the Committee to Form or the Governing Body
 - At-Risk students (as defined and approved by the SPCSA)
 - Students from overcrowded schools
 - Students from underperforming schools
 - Students residing within 2 miles of the school
 - Students enrolled in a school with an approved articulation agreement
 - Students enrolled in a tuition-free Pre-K that has an SPCSA approved articulation agreement with the charter school

If a school wishes to use more than one priority category, these should be ranked and incorporated into a formal policy adopted by the Board and approved by the SPCSA within the charter application process or through a formal amendment. Schools should always disclose priority tiers on application forms and on their website.

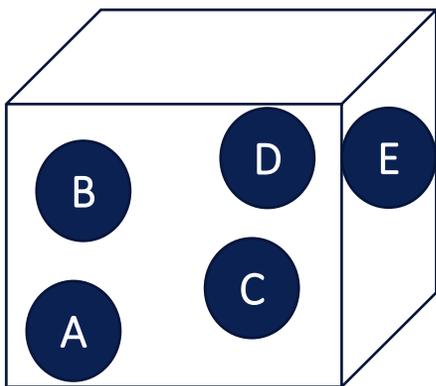


What is a Weighted Lottery?

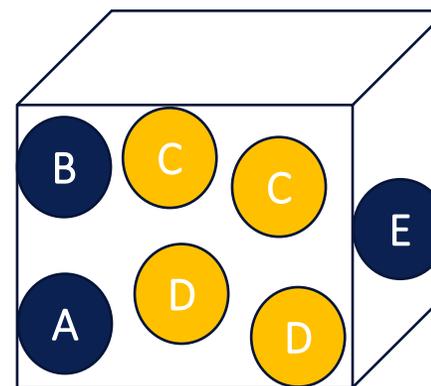
Typically in a lottery, each student has an equal chance of being selected. In a *weighted lottery*, certain students have a higher chance of being accepted.

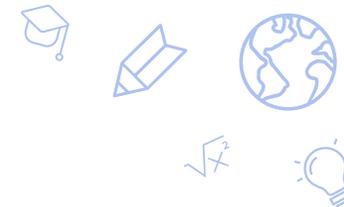
A simple example of a weighted lottery, certain students receive two tickets instead of one. Higher weights than two may also be used.

Typical Lottery: each student receives 1 “ticket”



Weighted Lottery: each student receives 2 “tickets”

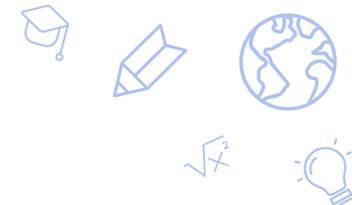




Weighted Lotteries (NAC 388A.538)

Charter schools may give additional “weight” in favor of one of the following subgroups of educationally disadvantaged students:

- Economically disadvantaged students
- Students with disabilities
- Migrant students
- Students with limited English proficiency
- Students who are neglected or delinquent
- Students who are homeless
- Students whose most recent enrollment was in a 1- or 2-star school



Weighted Lottery Requirements

A weighted lottery policy must:

1. Identify the weight to be assigned to each category of students
2. Justify the use of weight to:
 1. Align to the specific vision and mission of the charter school
 2. Address specific targets for the percent of students in a specific category to meet or exceed the local school district of geographic area in which the charter school is located



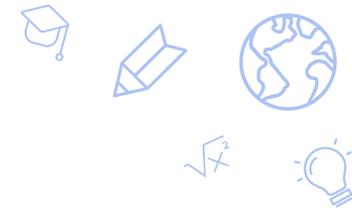
Lottery Preferences vs Weights

Preferences

- Certain student groups accepted prior to other student groups
- Example:
 - Siblings are accepted first (lottery conducted if needed)
 - Then other students are accepted (lottery conducted if needed)

Weights

- Certain student groups receive additional “chances” in the lottery
- Example:
 - Students with limited English Proficiency receive two tickets in the lottery instead of one
 - All other students receive one ticket.



SPCSA Oversight and Monitoring

SPCSA staff will always review:

1. Application forms
2. Compliance with NRS and NAC, specifically:
 - 45-day application window
 - Weighted lotteries and any priority enrollment tier(s)
 - A copy of the school's admission policy

SPCSA staff may ask for additional information:

1. List of pupils who entered a lottery
2. A copy of a school's waitlist



