

Prairie Crossing Charter School
Board of Director's Policy

Policy 500.6

Students

Admissions to Prairie Crossing Charter School

Prairie Crossing Charter School students are admitted in accordance with the state Charter Schools Law. The application process begins in January when parents are encouraged to fill out an application which they can get at the office or from the school website. After all applications have been submitted, returning students are given places as are their siblings if places are available.

Thereafter, admission is determined by a public lottery. The lottery is a nonexclusive, nondiscriminatory process where all students who live in Districts 50 and 79 are welcome to apply. All in-district applicants have the same chance of being selected. Out-of-district applications are also accepted. Legal residency must be established as of the day of the lottery for an applicant to be included in the in-district lottery process. Out-of-district students will only be admitted after all in-district student applications have been placed during the lottery process. After classes are filled, the lottery continues to create a waiting list for each grade. The application policy and procedures referred to below reflect Prairie Crossing Charter School's intent to maintain integrity and clarity throughout the following admission process.

1. Any student living in District 50 or 79 is eligible for admission to Prairie Crossing Charter School (PCCS).
2. The registration period runs from approximately January 1 to March 1 each year. During the time, PCCS sends information in English and Spanish to local newspapers, community service organizations, and other sources advising the community of opening at the school for the coming school year.
3. During the registration period, families of current students are asked to inform the school as to whether the student(s) will return for the coming year. These families are also asked to submit applications for any siblings who wish to attend the school, since siblings are given priority where space allows.
4. Also during the registration period, applications are available online and at the school for any interested and qualified families. These applications must be submitted to the school prior to the deadline, usually March 1. Families with children on the current waiting list are contacted to determine whether they are interested in being in the lottery for the next school year. Except as provided for in item #6, the waiting list is not maintained from year to year; a new waiting list is drawn each year.
5. All new applicants to the school and families currently on the waiting list indicating their desire to have a child(ren) considered for admission will be given a receipt to

document the school's acknowledgement of their application or restatement of their desire for their child(ren)'s admission to the school.

6. At the end of the registration period, the school determines how many spaces are available at each grade level after returning students have been tabulated. Priority for registration at each grade level is as follows: returning students, siblings of returning students, in-district applicants and finally out-of-district applicants. If there are more siblings than can be accommodated at any given grade level that are on the current year's waiting list, they will remain on the list in the current order. If there are new siblings to be added to the waiting list, their names will be drawn and added to the bottom of the current siblings' waiting list.
7. Once places have been assigned to returning students and their siblings, students from the applicant pool are assigned to the various grade levels. If there are more students than can be accommodated at a given grade level, a lottery is held among new students seeking admission to the affected grade levels, beginning at the highest grade level and moving to the lowest. If applicable, a final lottery is held in the same manner at each grade level for out-of-district applicants. They will be placed on the wait list immediately following the last in-district applicant previously drawn. If any student with siblings in the applicant pool is accepted, his or her siblings are automatically given priority as described above (i.e. the siblings are either accepted or added to the bottom of the waiting list of other siblings at the appropriate grade level).
8. All lotteries are held in public on a publicly disclosed date as soon as possible after the registration period has closed. Each lottery is held by grade level and priority as described above. An independent third party randomly selects names from a pool of all applicants to fill each grade level. Additional applicants are placed on a waiting list in the order selected, maintaining a priority status for siblings.
9. If during the lottery procedure a name was left out of the drawing for the appropriate grade level, one of five scenarios will result.
 - a. If the missing name is found before any other grades have been drawn, the lottery for that class is repeated with the name included.
 - b. If the missing name is found after other grades have been drawn and no siblings are impacted, the lottery for the class from which the name was missing is repeated with the name included.
 - c. If the missing name is found after other grades have been drawn and a student, Student A, was accepted into the class as a sibling because of the errant drawing, but is not a sibling based on the corrected drawing, the name of Student A and those of the students on the waiting list for that grade will be redrawn. The purpose for this redraw is solely to place Student A in the waiting list. Student A will be placed in the waiting list after the name of the student who is drawn immediately before he or she in the redraw. The order of the other students on the waiting list will not change. If Student A is drawn first, he or she will be accepted into the class unless the student at the top of the waiting list is a sibling of a student selected in the lottery. In that case, the sibling is accepted into the class.

- If not, the student whose name was first on the waiting list will be accepted into the class.
- d. If the missing name is found after other grades have been drawn and a student, Student A, was placed above other students on the waiting list as a sibling because of the errant drawing, but is not a sibling based on the corrected drawing, the name of Student A and those of the students on the waiting list for that grade will be redrawn. The purpose for this redraw is solely to place Student A in the waiting list. Student A will be placed in the waiting list after the name of the student who is drawn immediately before he or she in the redraw. The order of the other students on the waiting list will not change. If Student A is drawn first, he or she will be placed first on the waiting unless the student at the top of the waiting list is a sibling of a PCCS student or a student selected in the lottery. In that case, Student A will be placed on the waiting list immediately following any siblings of PCCS students or students selected in the lottery.
 - e. If the missing name is found after other grades have been drawn and a student, Student A, was not accepted as a sibling in the errant drawing, but is a sibling in the corrected drawing, Student A will be placed in the spot he or she would have been if his or her status as a sibling had been known. If student A is placed into the class, the last person placed in the class in the errant drawing will become the first person on the waiting list. No other changes in the waiting list will occur.
10. If after the lottery a student, Student A, was found to have been left out of the drawing, the name of Student A and those of the students on the waiting list for that grade will be redrawn. The purpose for this redraw is solely to place Student A in the waiting list. Student A will be placed in the waiting list after the name of the student after whom he or she is drawn. The order of the other students on the waiting list will not change. If Student A is drawn first, he or she will be placed first on the waiting unless the student at the top of the waiting list is a sibling of a PCCS student or a student selected in the lottery. In that case, Student A will be placed on the waiting list immediately following any siblings of PCCS students or students selected in the lottery. If Student A is a sibling, he or she will be placed in his or her appropriate spot based on his or her sibling status.
11. All affected families are advised of the results of the lottery as soon as possible in writing and on the website.
12. Students are moved up from the waiting lists as openings occur at their grade level. When a family on the wait list is eligible to be offered a space, the school will contact the family to determine their interest in having the child attend the school. The school will use three working days for contacting the family. The family will be given three working days to notify the school of their decision to enroll from the date they are contacted by the school. Those applicants who cannot be reached or who do not respond within this designated period of time will be removed from the wait list and will be required to reapply. The spot will then be offered to the next applicant on the wait list.

13. No priority is given to any applicant to Prairie Crossing Charter School, except returning students, their siblings, and siblings of accepted students, as noted above and provided for in the Illinois' Charter Schools Law.

Adopted November 15, 2005

Revised and readopted November 25, 2008