



Parent Information Project

NAVIGATING SCHOOL CHOICE

BASICS

School Choice is an important tool available to parents that can be used to explore educational opportunities more consistent with the complex scholastic needs that makes one child different from another.

Parents should be encouraged to consider educational approaches and the benefits the child's current or home school demonstrates, as well as alternatives, to find the best path forward to learning and achievement.



Key Things to Consider When Looking at Schools

Academics and Training

What/how will your child learn and will the environment work for them?

1. Services for Students with Special Needs
2. Specialized Educational Programs, Equipment, and Technology
3. Approach to Discipline

Extracurriculars

What kind of non-academic offerings does the school have?

1. Arts
2. Sports
3. Clubs

Preferences

Do you meet special considerations and will it affect your chance of admission?

1. Additional Assessments or Auditions
2. Seat Capacity
3. School Proximity

Diversity

How might the staff/student population impact your child's success?

1. Cultural/Social Comfort
2. Staff/Faculty Diversity

Transportation

How will your child get to/from school?

1. School Bus for Day and After-School
2. Walking or Private Vehicle
3. Public Transportation



Parent Rights and Responsibilities

Parents have the right to...

- Apply to choose their child to any school as long as eligibility criteria are met
- Expect that their child will be safe from physical and emotional harm
- Enroll their child without being discriminated against or facing unnecessary barriers to enrollment

Parents are responsible for...

- Researching school choices/options
- Assessing transportation barriers
- Meeting deadlines
- Providing for school needs such as uniforms, supplies, fees (or asking for necessary support to do so)

Seek Support and help from the Parent Information Project by calling Devon Brown at 302-761-3503. Visit the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission online at www.solutionsfordelawareschools.com and on Facebook: "Solutions for Wilmington Schools"

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Steps to Navigating School Choice

First Steps

- Begin by researching schools. Look for schools that match your student's and family's priorities (related to academics and training, school preferences, extracurriculars, diversity, and transportation).
- Visit schools that interest you and your student.
- Rank school choices, considering each school's unique qualities, capacity, and application requirements.

Next Steps

- Register your student in person at your home school (if not already enrolled).
 - Bring necessary support documents.
- Visit **schoolchoicede.org** to set up an account and begin the application. Gather and enter necessary information as requested.
- Submit applications by the deadline (January 10).
- Complete supplemental materials. Is additional information, audition, or interview required?
- Meet deadlines. Call the school if requirements are unclear.

Last Steps

- Check email and schoolchoicede.org for final decisions (February 28).
- Accept the invitation for the choice program on schoolchoicede.org (March 16).
- Attend orientation at the school where your child enrolls! Learn the rules, regulations, and fee/uniform requirements.

Call PIP at 302-761-3503 if you need support during this process.



Choice Application Timeline: Mark Your Calendar!

Monday, 8 a.m.
November 6, 2017
Online Choice Application Opens

Wednesday, 4 p.m.
January 10, 2018*
Online Choice Application Closes

Wednesday
February 28, 2018
District/School Notify Parent of Invitation Status

Friday
March 16, 2018
Parent Notify District/School of Acceptance Decision

**Charter Schools, Vocational-Technical School Districts, and Magnet schools may continue to accept applications after 1/10/2018, to fill remaining availability. Those holding a lottery will include applications received by 1/10/2018. Kindergarten applications can be submitted until the first day of school.*

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