



Georgia Connections Academy Enrollment and Lottery Policy

Purpose

Georgia Connections Academy ("GACA") is committed to maximizing open enrollment and promoting equity in student admissions when the number of student applications exceeds the annually set enrollment limits. Such limits help ensure that students are provided with quality instruction and support, including an effective student/teacher ratio. Therefore, if the number of enrollment applications received during the annual "open application period" exceeds the enrollment capacity, GACA will ensure applicants have an equal chance of admission through means of a publicly held random lottery selection process in accordance with O.C.G.A §20-2-2066.

Notification of Enrollment and Admission Procedures

GACA will ensure active communication of enrollment and admission opportunities and procedures to parents as well as, the school community to ensure that students and parents have an equal chance to learn about and apply to the school. The enrollment cycle will be displayed on GACA's website prior to and upon commencement of the opening of an enrollment cycle.

Open Application Period

GACA will have an open application period of one (1) to three (3) months at a time, to be specified during the second semester of each school year for the following school year. During this period, students/caretakers who are interested in enrolling must begin by:

1. Completing the online registration form which will be made available on the school's website.
2. Providing two (2) verifiable proofs of residency.

No students will be admitted for the school year during the open application period. Upon accounting for returning students and their siblings, if the number of lottery eligible students exceeds the school's enrollment capacity, a lottery will be conducted in accordance with this policy.

Waiting List

GACA will continue to accept applications after the open application period. If the school is not over-subscribed by the end of the open application period, no lottery will be held and GACA will continue to accept applications and admit eligible students in the order in which enrollment applications are received and based on availability in their respective grade clusters. If the school is over-subscribed, these students will be placed on the waiting list in order of the automatically recorded time/date stamp recorded when they complete the enrollment application. These students will be allowed to enroll based on the availability of space in their grade cluster and their place on the waiting list. Students who completed first will be offered the space first.

Lottery Procedure (if required)

If a random lottery is needed, GACA will post the date and time of the lottery on its website Enrollment page. GACA will also notify the primary caretakers of prospective students with completed enrollment applications via email.

The lottery will be conducted in three (3) clusters:

- Grades K-5,
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12.

The order in which those clusters are drawn and the total number of students selected for each cluster may vary each year in consideration of the school's overall enrollment limit, the expected number of returning students and any of their siblings who complete an enrollment application during the open application period, and/or other operational factors.

Randomization

In accordance with SCSC Rule 691-2-.05, GACA will utilize a computer-generated randomization to ensure a random lottery without the possibility of human bias and error. The program will randomly select a student name from the pool of remaining enrollment applications for each grade cluster until the number of available spots are filled, or the pool of enrollment applications is exhausted.

Enrollment Priorities During a Lottery

"Sibling" is defined as "Children who share at least one common biological or legal parent whether through natural or adoptive means." This definition includes:

- "Half" siblings that share a single parent,
- "Step" siblings that share a parent or parents through marriage, and
- Children who share a parent or parents through adoption or guardianship.

As each student in a grade cluster is selected, siblings of that student for whom an enrollment application is also complete will be accepted as long as a slot in their grade cluster is available.

When all available slots have been filled, students not selected will be placed on a waiting list in the order they completed their enrollment applications. Waitlisted siblings of selected students will be given the first priority to enroll.

The primary caretakers of selected students will receive an email confirmation within two (2) business days after the lottery and must confirm student attendance by a set deadline. Students without confirmed attendance by the set deadline will forfeit their spot to the next eligible students on the waiting list.



As each student in a grade cluster is drawn, siblings of the selected student, for whom the enrollment application is also complete, will be accepted at the same time, regardless of grade, as long as space in the sibling's grade cluster is available.

When all available spots have been filled, the students not selected will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they completed the enrollment process. Enrollment priority shall be given to waitlisted siblings of selected students. However, if a waitlisted sibling is no longer interested in enrolling, the available spot will be offered to the next waitlisted student in that grade cluster.