

LOTTERY PROCEDURES & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS MIDDLE SCHOOL (6th, 7th & 8th Grades)

www.elhaynes.org

Why is E.L. Haynes holding a lottery?

In accordance with the DC charter school law, all DC Public Charter Schools must hold a random public lottery to select new students if the total number of applicants for any grade level exceeds the number of spaces available on or before a specific deadline. For the 2010-2011 school year, E.L. Haynes received more applications than spaces available on our Friday, February 26, 2010 deadline; therefore, we will hold a lottery on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

What is a lottery?

A lottery refers to the selection of applicants for enrollment by a random method such as the drawing of numbers from a container until all of the numbers in the container have been drawn. During the lottery, numbers assigned to each application are drawn in random order to fill the available spaces for each grade. Numbers assigned to the remainder of applications exceeding available spaces are placed on the school's waiting list.

Who is eligible to participate in the lottery?

Any student who is a resident of the District of Columbia is eligible to apply for enrollment in a DC Public Charter School. For school year 2010-2011, only applicants who submitted applications before midnight on February 26, 2010 are eligible to participate in the E.L. Haynes lottery.

E.L. Haynes will continue to accept applications after February 26, 2010. Applications received after February 26, 2010 will be placed on the waiting list in the order that they are received after those who participate in the lottery.

How will the E.L. Haynes lottery work?

- ▶ Each applicant will be assigned a random number. Each number will be placed on a 3X5 index card that will be openly displayed on tables before the lottery starts.
- ▶ At the start of the lottery, the numbered cards will be placed in a clean container.
- ▶ The numbered cards will be selected one at a time by a member of the community with no interest in the outcome of the lottery. This individual will pass the card to a reader who will announce the number on the card and the applicant's name to the audience.
- ▶ The selections will be recorded in the order in which they are pulled out of the container and displayed on an overhead projector.
- ▶ After each number is read, confirmation of whether the selected student has a sibling will be noted.
- ▶ Numbers will be drawn until they have been exhausted and placed on the waiting list, if applicable, in the order in which they were drawn.
- ▶ There will be a separate lottery conducted for each grade. The selection process will be conducted one grade level at a time.

Is there any preference for sibling applicants to E.L. Haynes?

The DC charter school law allows siblings of enrolled students to receive a preference in their admission to public charter schools.

- ▶ Sibling applicants participate in a separate sibling lottery to determine in what order siblings will be offered available spaces. The sibling lottery may also create a sibling waiting list if there are no spaces available in a specific grade. When a space opens up, the student at the top of the sibling waiting list for that grade is invited to enroll. Once the sibling waiting list is exhausted, students on the regular (non-sibling) waiting list are invited to enroll.

- ▶ When spaces become available, E.L. Haynes will offer admission to families on the waiting list. If a wait list applicant who is offered admission has a sibling who has also applied to E.L. Haynes, that sibling will be moved to the sibling waiting list.

What happens after the lottery? How do I secure my child's space at E.L. Haynes?

- ▶ The school will send notices by US Postal Mail notifying all families of their admission and/or placement on the waitlist on March 19, 2010. *(Please make sure our office has your current contact information.)*
- ▶ Families of selected students will receive an acceptance letter and a commitment form for your child/children. A registration packet will be mailed to you or you may pick one up from the school's front office. Your child's enrollment is only complete when **all** of the registration materials have been received and DC residency confirmed by posted deadlines. *(Pay close attention to the deadlines; failure to return all of the registration materials by the deadlines will put your child's space at E.L. Haynes at risk.)*
- ▶ Any space that is vacated during the school year will be offered to the next eligible student on the waiting list.

What if I have more questions?

Additional information about E.L. Haynes can be found on our website, www.elhaynes.org. If you would like to speak to someone, please call us at 202-667-4446.

Thank You for Supporting E.L. Haynes!