

Lottery Priorities

For our enrollment lottery, Citizens has four “lottery weights,” in order of priority:

1. Sibling of current student
2. Child of full-time staff
3. Resident within our Geographic Preference Area
4. Resident within KCPS boundaries.

It may be helpful to think of each “lottery weight” as its own bucket.

Each student is placed into one bucket based on their highest lottery weight. For instance, a younger sibling of a current student would be placed into Bucket #1. A student living within our Preference Area would be placed into Bucket #3.

At the same time, each grade level has its own number of available seats. For instance, Kindergarten may have 70 open seats and 3rd grade may have 10. Availability in each grade level will be different based on re-enrollment of current students.

On the application deadline date, each grade level will proceed one of two ways:

1. If there are more open seats than Enrollment Requests received, all Requests for that grade will receive offers.
2. If there are more Requests received than open seats, a lottery will be held for that grade.

Offers vs Waitlist

Looking at our hypothetical Kindergarten example, there are 70 open seats and let’s say we have received 190 Requests for Enrollment, broken down as follows:

1. Bucket 1 (Sibling) = 15
2. Bucket 2 (FT Staff Child) = 5
3. Bucket 3 (Geographic Preference) = 80
4. Bucket 4 (KCPS Resident) = 90

The lottery will move bucket-by-bucket:

1. Bucket 1 (Sibling): All 15 requests will receive offers, leaving 55 seats still open.
2. Bucket 2 (FT Staff Child): All 5 requests will receive offers, leaving 50 seats still open.
3. Bucket 3 (Geographic Preference): Since there are more Requests than seats left (80>50), we will now hold a random sub-lottery of these 80 Requests. 50 will receive offers (filling the remaining seats) and 30 will be assigned an order on the waitlist from 1-30.
4. Bucket 4 (KCPS Resident): We will hold a second random sub-lottery of these 90 Requests; all will be assigned an order on the waitlist from 31-120.

Post-Lottery Waitlist – Why the waitlist number changes

After the lottery, we will still accept Requests for Enrollment. Those Requests will be put on the Waitlist in the order received, but also according to their lottery weight. Continuing with our example, let’s remember that there are 120 people on the waitlist; 1-30 are in Bucket 3 and 31-120 are in Bucket 4.

- If we receive a Request in Bucket 1, they will now be given Waitlist #1 and everyone behind them is “bumped down” a space.
- If we receive a Request in Bucket 3, they will be given Waitlist #31 (the space after the last current Bucket 3 Request) and everyone behind them “bumped down” a space.
- If we receive a Request in Bucket 4, they will be given Waitlist #121.

Once anyone declines an offer, cancels an application, or withdraws, the next person on the Waitlist is given an offer and everyone “moves up” a space.