

Element 8: Admissions Requirements

“Admission requirements, if applicable.” CA Ed. Code § 47605(b)(5)(H).

Thrive Public School is open to all students residing in California who wish to attend the school, as outlined in Education Code § 47605(d)(2)(A). Thrive Public School shall not discriminate on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220, including actual or perceived disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics.

A. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS & PREFERENCES

Thrive Public School is an open enrollment, tuition-free public school with no specific requirements for admission (e.g., minimum grade point average, test scores, discipline records, etc.). Enrollment to the school shall be open to any resident of the State of California. Thrive enrolls all pupils who wish to attend to the extent that space allows. CA Ed. Code § 47605(d)(2)(A).

Thrive Public School is fully committed to serving all students who wish to attend, regardless of socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, academic achievement, special education needs or other “risk factors.”

As a charter school, Thrive Public School is a school of choice, and Thrive Public School may have more students interested in attending the school than there are spaces available. If the number of students who wish to attend the school exceeds the openings available, admission shall be determined by random public drawing in accordance with Education Code §47605(d)(2) and all federal requirements.

During any period of funding for the Public Charter Schools Grant Program (“PCSGP”), requirements of the PCSGP program will be followed.

In accordance with the applicable law and federal guidelines, admission preferences shall be given to the following students in the following order: (1) pupils currently attending the charter school, and 2) pupils who reside within the boundaries of the district.

B. ADMISSION PROCESS AND OPEN ENROLLMENT

In order to be included in the admissions lottery (if a lottery is necessary), families must submit an application that includes the student’s name, grade, birthday, and contact information for the family. Application materials are made available in English and Spanish. The enrollment period is advertised in English and Spanish through flyers, posters in prominent locations throughout the community, during informational meetings for parents, and announced on the school’s website. Thrive Public School also attempt to advertise through local media as the school’s budget permits. In the event that the enrollment deadline is extended due to available space, the revised deadline to apply is also announced to the community using similar venues.

Open Enrollment typically begins the first business day after January 1 and continues through the last Friday of April of the same year.¹³ All interested families are required to submit a completed Admissions Application Form directly to the school before 4:30 p.m. on the date of the annual deadline, which is clearly indicated on the form and in all communications and notices (websites, flyers, etc.) regarding admission to the school. Submitted Admission Application Forms are date- and time-stamped and student names re added to an application roster to track receipt. Families who apply after the enrollment deadline are added to the wait list in the order the applications are received.

Following the open enrollment period, applications are counted to determine if any grade level has received a number of applications that exceed available seats. If the number of students who have applied for any grade exceed capacity as of the date of the application deadline the school holds a public random lottery to determine enrollment for the impacted grade level.

All admissions timelines are subject to annual review and adjustment by the Board of Governors to meet the needs of the school while providing ample time for applicants. Changes are reflected in adopted Board policies.

C. PUBLIC RANDOM DRAWING PROCEDURES

As stated, should the number of pupils who wish to attend the charter school exceed the school's capacity, then admission is determined by a public random drawing in accordance with Education Code § 47605(d)(2)(B). Lottery rules and deadlines are communicated via the Admissions Application Form, flyers/posters, and the Thrive Public School website. Public notice re posted regarding the date and time of the public drawing once the deadline date has passed. Notice includes an explanation that parents/guardians do not need to be present at the lottery, but may attend if they choose to do so.

A member of the Thrive school Leadership Team and at least one other school employee conducts the admissions lottery as a public event to ensure that lottery procedures are fairly executed.

The Thrive Public School lottery is set annually by the Board of Governors and is posted on our website and in the school office. The lottery is conducted at a time that is convenient for a majority of interested parties and is open to the public. The school informs parents of all applicants and all interested parties of the rules to be followed during the lottery process, location, date and time of the lottery both on the application for enrollment and our school website two weeks prior to the lottery date. The school chooses a date and time for the lottery (either on the weekend or after 5:30pm on a weekday) so that most interested parties are able to attend. The lottery is held at the school site if the school facility can accommodate all interested parties. Thrive authorizer representatives and respected members of the community are welcome to come to officially observe the lottery to verify lottery procedures are fairly executed.

Admissions Application Forms, the manual record of all lottery participants and their assigned lottery numbers, and other lottery-related documents are physically filed on campus, and lottery results and waiting lists are readily available in the school's main office for inspection upon request. Each applicant's

¹³ For the first year, depending on the timing of charter approval, the open enrollment period may be extended to allot sufficient time for thorough outreach and recruitment.

admissions application is kept on file for the academic year with his or her assigned lottery number in the school database and on his or her enrollment application.

Students who are offered spots are notified by mail and asked to complete an Enrollment Packet by a predetermined deadline (approximately two weeks for initial post-lottery enrollment; an expedited timeline is required for families offered spots off the wait list) to secure their spot. Thrive Public School staff are available to assist families in completing this paperwork if needed.

D. WAIT LIST

The random public lottery determines applicants' wait list status. Those who apply after the lottery deadline are added to the end of the lottery wait list in the order they are received. Vacancies that occur during the school year are filled according to the wait list. When an offer occurs during the school year, families are contacted in the order of the wait list and typically are given 48 hours to decide whether or not to accept a space at the school. In the event that no such wait list exists where the space is available, the space is made available on a first come, first served basis to the next interested family at the appropriate grade level.

The wait list for the current school year remains active until Thrive Public School's admissions period commences for the following year. Applications are only valid for the current year. Applicants must reapply for the lottery annually if the school is unable to offer them admission for the current year.

E. MCKINNEY VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

Thrive Public School adheres to the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth.

F. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Thrive Public School adheres to all applicable admission and enrollment provisions of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) pertaining to Public School Choice and other legal requirements.