

STRONG START ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENT ENROLLMENT LOTTERY POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair, transparent, and nondiscriminatory process for the enrollment of students when the number of applicants exceeds the number of seats available at Strong Start Academy Elementary School (the “School”).

2. Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination

The School is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to all eligible applicants. Admission and enrollment decisions shall be made without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

The School shall administer its enrollment and lottery processes in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and requirements governing public charter schools.

3. Open Enrollment and Lottery

The School shall establish and publish an annual Open Enrollment period during which families may submit applications for the upcoming academic year.

If the number of applicants for a grade level does not exceed the number of available seats, eligible applicants may be offered enrollment without the need for a lottery.

If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of available seats for a grade level, the School shall conduct a random, computerized lottery after the Open Enrollment period to determine enrollment offers and the order of the waitlist.

Following the lottery, families shall be notified of their child’s enrollment status through the School’s designated enrollment system and/or by email or telephone.

4. Waitlist

Applicants who participate in the lottery but are not offered enrollment due to space limitations shall be placed on a numbered waitlist based on the order established through the lottery process.

The waitlist shall be used to fill seats that become available during the applicable enrollment period. Enrollment offers shall be made in waitlist order, subject to any enrollment preferences or priorities permitted or required by applicable law and established by the School.

Applicants who submit an application after the close of the Open Enrollment period shall be placed in the general applicant pool and may be considered for future enrollment opportunities during the applicable academic year.

Applicants in the general applicant pool shall not receive a numbered waitlist position unless an additional lottery is necessary. An additional lottery shall not be conducted for a grade level until the established waitlist for that grade level has been exhausted.

5. Application Requirements

To be considered for enrollment, a parent or legal guardian must submit an application through the School's designated enrollment system.

Only a student's parent or legal guardian may submit an application on behalf of the student. Families are encouraged to include all students within the household who are seeking enrollment on the same family application so that applicable sibling enrollment preferences can be properly identified and administered.

Submission of an application does not guarantee enrollment. Enrollment is contingent upon seat availability, applicable enrollment priorities, lottery results when required, and completion of the School's enrollment requirements.

6. Enrollment Preferences

The School shall apply enrollment preferences in accordance with NRS 388A.456 and other applicable law. Enrollment preferences may include:

- Siblings of currently enrolled students;
- Children of School employees or members of the School's governing body; and
- Children of military personnel.

Applicants qualifying for an enrollment preference shall be given priority in accordance with applicable law before remaining available seats are filled through the lottery process.

7. Weighted Lottery

In accordance with applicable Nevada law and regulations and the School's approved charter application, the School shall utilize a weighted lottery to provide increased opportunities for educationally disadvantaged students and to support the educational goals of the School's 50/50 dual language program.

The School shall provide additional lottery weight as follows:

- English Learner (EL) students: Three (3) lottery entries.
- Students whose most recent enrollment was at a Nevada public school designated as a one- or two-star school: Two (2) lottery entries.
- All other eligible applicants: One (1) lottery entry.

Participation in the weighted lottery criteria is optional. Families are not required to provide information or documentation related to weighted lottery eligibility in order to participate in the lottery. Applicants who do not qualify for, or whose families elect not to provide documentation for, an additional lottery weight shall participate in the lottery with one (1) entry.

8. English Learner Identification for Lottery Purposes

The School may use an optional Home Language Survey and/or existing WIDA assessment results to identify applicants who may qualify for additional lottery weight as English Learners.

Students must be confirmed as English Learners prior to the lottery in order to receive the applicable additional lottery weight.

The use of additional weight for English Learners is intended to support the educational model of the School's 50/50 dual language program by increasing opportunities to maintain an appropriate balance of Spanish-dominant and English-dominant students.

9. Available Seats

The number of seats available through the lottery shall be determined after accounting for continuing students and applicants entitled to an enrollment preference.

If a vacancy occurs and no established waitlist exists for the applicable grade level, eligible applicants may be offered enrollment upon completion of the required application process.

10. Lottery Eligibility and Acceptance

To participate in the initial lottery, a complete application must be submitted during the established Open Enrollment period. Incomplete applications shall not be eligible for inclusion in the lottery.

Families receiving an offer of enrollment shall be provided a specified period in which to accept the offer. Failure to accept the enrollment offer within the established timeframe may result in forfeiture of the offered seat, which may then be offered to the next eligible applicant in accordance with this policy.

Acceptance of an enrollment offer is followed by completion of the School's registration and enrollment requirements. An application or lottery selection alone does not constitute completed enrollment.