City of Pembroke Pines

Charter School System

Lottery System Outline
Reassignment Request and Appeals Process
Feeder Patterns for Elementary To Middle Schools
Lottery and Enrollment Dates
BCS Diversity Breakdown
National Lunch Program Income Guidelines
IRS FICA Wage Limit

Updated January 1, 2016
BCS Diversity Breakdown
National Lunch Program Inco Guidelines
IRS FICA Wage Limit
"Transfer(s)" are herein changed to "Reassignment(s)"

January 1, 2016

City of Pembroke Pines - Charter Schools
Lottery System Outline

Lottery Objective

Fill open seats at each grade level with a qualified applicant from a lottery pool. The lottery pool is primarily used to fill new kindergarten classes each year. It also serves to fill new openings in all grade levels that develop from students exiting and / or school expansions. Openings are filled based on the preferences as outline below.

Lottery Pools

1. Pines-BCS uses the basic lottery preferences only.
2. Pines-FSU uses the basic lottery preferences along with the ethnicity, race, and socioeconomic lottery preferences.
3. Pines -FSU Center for Children with Autism will use the basic lottery preferences along with the ethnicity, race and socioeconomic lottery preferences.

Applicants enter the lottery system in two ways:

1. New student application received by deadline. Active military and school staff may enter the lottery at any time.
2. Reinsertion to the lottery due to a multi-level grade advancement, retention, or Reassignment request.
    a. Reinsertion requires an application and principal's approval.
    b. Upon approval the principals should be allowed to assign a priority of 1 thru 3, highest to lowest, to give preference to special needs, hardships, etc.

Notes on Siblings

1. A qualified sibling relationship means they are living in the same house on a year round basis and are siblings through parentage, adoption, marriage, or legal guardianship. Other relations such as cousins, nephews, etc. even though they reside in the same household are not considered siblings.
2. A marriage certificate, proof of legal guardianship, etc. are required to establish the sibling relationship.
3. If the current enrolled sibling graduates the applicant retains the sibling category preference for future lotteries.
4. If the current enrolled sibling is withdrawn after the lottery closing date the applicant will remain in the sibling preference category for the current year but not for future years.
5. Sibling preference is not given if the new application comes after the qualifying sibling's graduation.
6. Same grade siblings (twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc.) will be assigned to consecutive wait list numbers (if they enter the lottery at the same time) but will only be placed together if space is available. The applications will have a check box to indicate parent's preference of **same class, separate classes, or no preference.**

City of Pembroke Pines - Charter Schools
Lottery System Outline

Basic Lottery Preferences

1. Assign priority within applicant's highest qualifying category then by year of application or reinsertion.
2. Categories
    a. Current charter school students with multi-level advancement or retention. (Current students only.)
    b. Children of charter school staff members. (New applicants.)
    NOTE: If a charter school staff member leaves before finishing one full calendar year from their anniversary date or doesn't return for the start of their second school year then their child will be withdrawn from the school at the end of the semester.
    c. Reassignments between schools. (Current students only.)
    Reassignments are not done during the active school year because it is disruptive unless the assigned priority is one.
        i. School staff
        ii. Active duty military
        iii. All others (principals can assign a priority status)
    d. Active duty military. (New applicants.)
        i. With siblings currently enrolled.
        ii. Without siblings currently enrolled.
    e. Siblings (New applicants.)
        i. Of pines residents of currently enrolled students.
        ii. Of non-pines residents of currently enrolled students.
    f. Pembroke Pines residents with no siblings currently enrolled. (New applicants.)
    g. All other applicants.
3. Applicants cannot switch between categories after the lottery runs unless approved by the principal(s) then the applicant will be moved to the end of their new category-grade-pool. Examples:
    a. An applicant applied to the wrong grade.
    b. An applicant is the child of a newly hired staff member.
    c. An applicant is the child of newly activated military personnel.
4. All campuses are part of a single pool excluding the FSU campus and the Autistic program which have their own pools due to different requirements.
    a. Applicants will be placed in in both Pines-BCS and Pines-FSU pools automatically, if all required fields were completed.
    b. Autistic program applicants are only eligible for Autistic pool.
    c. A wait list applicant can only be offered one opening and only one opening at a time. Meaning, the same student may not be offered two separate openings regardless if the pools and/or campuses differ.
    d. A parent may reject acceptance to a campus without penalty. They will immediately become eligible again for the next opening as long as it is not at the same campus and grade they have already rejected.
    e. If a parent doesn't respond to an offering within in the specified time frame then their application will be placed into an inactive status. The parent may go online and reset their status without penalty and still be fully eligible. (Example: A parent is on vacation.)
    f. Parents must list campus preferences. First choice is higher than second choice. Second choice is weighed higher than third choice and so on.

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Lottery System Outline

Pines-FSU Gender, Ethnicity, Race, and Socioeconomic Lottery Preferences

1. The aim is to maintain **gender balance of 50/50** along with **ethnic and race** percentages in line with those of Broward County as outlined in the Broward County Public Schools District Profile.
    a. Ethnicity: Hispanic, Non-Hispanic.
    b. Race: White, Black, Asian, Native American or Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Multiracial.
2. School attempts to balance the socioeconomic status of the school so as to maintain an equal balance of student population in each of the four SES categories. The first two categories are based on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) - Income Eligibility Guidelines. An easier to read version was provided by the city's Controller: NSLP Chart.
    a. Category 1: student qualifies for free lunch
    b. Category 2: student qualifies for a reduced lunch
    c. Category 3: household income is below the FICA base limit ($118,500 for 2015) and the student does not qualify for free or reduced lunch.
    d. Category 4: household income is at least the FICA base limit ($118,500 for 2015) and the student does not qualify for free or reduced lunch.

City of Pembroke Pines - Charter Schools
Lottery System Outline

Reassignment Request and Appeals

Three Reassignment tiers that can be made. Parents of students who are Requesting Reassignment can appeal at any of the decision levels.

1. Principal at Current School
   Request initially goes straight to the Principal at the student's current school.
   a) Principal can approve the request then it will automatically go to the Reassignment Committee for final approval.
   b) Principal can deny and supply a comment.

2. Reassignment Committee
   The Reassignment Committee gives final Reassignment approvals and handles initial appeals.

3. City Manager
   A denied request by the Reassignment Committee may be appealed to the City Manager.

Feeder Patterns

- Elementary schools are located at the East, Central, West, and FSU campuses.
- East and Central graduates attend the Central campus middle school.
- West and FSU graduates attend the West campus middle school. FSU graduates must note that only Broward County residents will feed into the City of Pembroke Pines Charter Middle Schools.
- The new middle school at the Academic Village has no defined feeder school.
- All middle school graduates attend high school at the Academic Village high school.

Lottery and Enrollment Timeline

(The official dates will include the effective school year and be posted online.)

1. Re-enrollment and lottery application accepted.
2. Lottery runs.
3. Lottery notification sent to parent.
4. Parent accepts or declines open seat offer.
5. Enrollment Period. Parent brings in necessary paperwork.

Broward County Schools Diversity Breakdown

DIVERSITY BREAKDOWN– 2015/16		
	Number	Percent
White	136,778	50.9%
Black	109,236	40.6%
Asian	10,001	3.7%
Native American/Native Alaskan	2,822	1.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	523	0.2%
Multi-racial	9,476	3.5%
Ethnically Hispanic	84,785	31.5%
ELL	28,603	10.6%
ESE	33,024	12.3%
FRL	170,984	63.6%
Male	138,643	51.6%
Female	130,193	48.4%

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National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Income Guidelines

FLORIDA INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR FREE AND
REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Effective from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016

FREE MEAL SCALE					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	15,301	1,276	638	589	295
2	20,709	1,726	863	797	399
3	26,117	2,177	1,089	1,005	503
4	31,525	2,628	1,314	1,213	607
5	36,933	3,078	1,539	1,421	711
6	42,341	3,529	1,765	1,629	815
7	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919
8	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023
For each additional family member, add	+ 5,408	+ 451	+ 226	+ 208	+ 104

REDUCED-PRICE MEAL SCALE					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	21,775	1,815	908	838	419
2	29,471	2,456	1,228	1,134	567
3	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863
5	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011
6	60,255	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,159
7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
For each additional family member, add	+ 7,696	+ 642	+ 321	+ 296	+ 148

FICA Wage Limit for 2015

Topic 751 - Social Security and Medicare Withholding Rates

Taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) are composed of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance taxes, also known as Social Security taxes, and the hospital insurance tax, also known as Medicare taxes. Different rates apply for these taxes.

The current tax rate for Social Security is 6.2% for the employer and 6.2% for the employee, or 12.4% total. The current rate for Medicare is 1.45% for the employer and 1.45% for the employee, or 2.9% total. Refer to Publication 15, *(Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide*, for more information; or Publication 51, *(Circular A), Agricultural Employer's Tax Guide*, for agricultural employers.

Only the Social Security tax has a wage base limit. The wage base limit is the maximum wage that is subject to the tax for that year. For earnings in 2015, this base is $118,500. Refer to "What's New" in Publication 15 for the current wage limit for Social Security wages; or Publication 51 for agricultural employers.

There is no wage base limit for Medicare tax. All covered wages are subject to Medicare tax.

In tax years 2013 and later, Additional Medicare Tax applies to an individual's Medicare wages that exceed a threshold amount based on the taxpayer's filing status. Employers are responsible for withholding the 0.9% Additional Medicare Tax on an individual's wages paid in excess of $200,000 in a calendar year, without regard to filing status. An employer is required to begin withholding Additional Medicare Tax in the pay period in which it pays wages in excess of $200,000 to an employee and continue to withhold it each pay period until the end of the calendar year. There is no employer match for Additional Medicare Tax. For more information, see Questions and Answers for the Additional Medicare Tax on IRS.gov.

More Tax Topic Categories

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