

Element 13: Admission Policy and Procedures

“Admission policy and procedures, consistent with [Education Code Section 47605.6] subdivision (e).” (Ed. Code § 47605.6(b)(5)(M).)

SEED LA will be open to all students who wish to attend the Charter School, as prescribed in Education Code 47605.6. Students with special needs will have equal opportunity both to apply and enroll.

The Charter School will be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, and all other operations, and will not charge tuition or discriminate against any student based upon any of the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220, including immigration status.

The Charter School will admit all pupils who wish to attend the Charter School. No test or assessment will be administered to students prior to acceptance and enrollment into the Charter School. The Charter School will comply with all laws establishing minimum and maximum age for public school attendance in charter schools. Admission, except in the case of a public random drawing, will not be determined by the place of residence of the pupil or his or her parent or legal guardian within the state. In accordance with Education Code Sections 49011 and 47605.6(e)(2)(B)(iv), admission preferences will not require mandatory parental volunteer hours as a criterion for admission or continued enrollment.

In accordance with Education Code Section 47605.6(e)(4)(A), the Charter School will not discourage a pupil from enrolling or seeking to enroll in the charter school for any reason, including, but not limited to, academic performance of the pupil or because the pupil exhibits any of the characteristics described in Education Code Section 47605.6(e)(2)(B)(iii), including pupils with disabilities, academically low-achieving pupils, English learners, neglected or delinquent pupils, homeless pupils, or pupils who are economically disadvantaged, as determined by eligibility for any free or reduced-price meal program, foster youth, or pupils based on nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Similarly, in accordance with Section 47605.6(e)(4)(C), the Charter School will not encourage a pupil currently attending the Charter School to disenroll from the Charter School or transfer to another school for any reason, including, but not limited to the academic performance of the pupil or because the pupil exhibits any of the characteristics described in Education Code Section 47605.6(e)(2)(B)(iii), as listed above.

Pursuant to Education Code Section 47605.6(e)(4)(D), the Charter School will post a notice developed by the CDE on the Charter School website, outlining the requirements of Section 47605.6(e)(4), and make this notice available to parents.

NO ADMISSION TESTING

At the time of enrollment, assessments may be administered to determine a student's placement in appropriate courses or need for instructional interventions; however, such assessments will not be used as a means to prohibit or discourage any student from attending SEED LA.

APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

SEED LA will establish an annual recruiting and admissions cycle that includes reasonable time for all of the following: 1) outreach to all areas of Los Angeles County, partnering with the various agencies to make sure that youth know about the SEED LA opportunity, 2) orientation sessions for students and parents throughout the county, 3) an admissions application period; 4) an admission lottery, if necessary, and 5) enrollment. There will be a standard, basic student information form that will request contact information, age of prospective student and information regarding whether the student is eligible for free or reduced priced meals.

All students who reside in the state of California will be eligible for admission, however, transportation services will only be provided for students who reside in Los Angeles County, as the transportation funding is from Los Angeles County.

The SEED School will require students who wish to attend the School to complete an application form. After admission, students will be required to submit an enrollment packet, which will include the following:

- Student enrollment form
- Proof of immunization
- Home language survey
- Completion of emergency medical information form
- Proof of maximum age requirements

- Release of records³

SIBLING PRIORITY

Families are important to SEED LA and we will strive to keep households together for ease of parent/school relationships, transportation and school calendar logistics. With this in mind, enrollment preference will be given to siblings of any student admitted to or attending SEED LA. A sibling is defined as a biological or legally adopted brother or sister, as well as stepbrothers, stepsisters, or foster children residing full-time in the same household with a current SEED LA scholar. (Cousins, nieces, nephews and unrelated children sharing an address with a SEED LA scholar are not considered siblings.) A sibling must meet the above eligibility criteria to enroll in SEED LA. To obtain the sibling preference, the student would identify that he or she is the sibling of a student admitted to or attending SEED LA on the student information form.

THE LOTTERY AND PRIORITY ADMISSIONS

Applications will be accepted during a publicly advertised open enrollment period each year for enrollment in the following school year. Following the open enrollment period each year, applications will be counted to determine whether any grade level has received more applications than availability. In the event that this happens, the SEED School will hold a public random drawing (or “lottery”) to determine admission for the impacted grade level, with the exception of existing students, who are guaranteed admission in the following school year. In the case of a public random drawing, a weighted priority will be applied to the following students in the following order in order to ensure that students who would most benefit from a public boarding model are enrolled:

- Siblings of students admitted to or attending the SEED School⁴
- Students who reside in the Vermont Manchester and surrounding South LA neighborhoods of Los Angeles
- Resilient Youth, or students who identify as one or more of the following:

³ The SEED School shall not request a pupil’s records or require a parent, guardian, or pupil to submit the pupil’s records to the SEED School before enrollment.

⁴ A sibling is defined as a biological or legally adopted brother or sister, as well as stepbrothers, stepsisters, or foster children residing full-time in the same household with a current SEED LA scholar. Cousins, nieces, nephews and unrelated children sharing an address with a SEED LA scholar are not considered siblings. A sibling must meet the eligibility criteria to enroll in SEED LA.

- Students who are homeless or housing insecure⁵
 - Students who have interacted with the Department of Children and Family Services⁶
 - Students who have had contact with the probation department⁷
 - Students who have an immediate family member who is incarcerated at the time of applying for admission to the School
- ✓ Residents of the county
 - ✓ All other applicants

The SEED School and the county agree to adhere to the requirements related to admission preferences as set forth in Education Code Section 47605.6(e)(2)(B)(i)-(iv).

The board of directors will take all necessary efforts to ensure lottery procedures are fairly executed. Lottery spaces are pulled by the designated lottery official (appointed by the Head of School). All lotteries will take place on the same day in a single location. The SEED School of Los Angeles County will have two lotteries - a male lottery and a female lottery. This is necessary due to the residential nature of SEED LA. However, students who apply to SEED LA are not required to identify their gender. In recognition and support of the Gender Recognition Act and as an inclusive community, SEED LA applicants may decline to state gender or identify as nonbinary on their application. Nonetheless, solely for the purpose of being included in the lottery, a student who wishes not to identify or who identifies as nonbinary must select whether to be included in the male lottery or the female lottery. This selection is to allow the student to be included in the admissions lottery only and does not mean that SEED LA will identify the student as the gender associated with their selected lottery. Once enrolled, housing placement for all male, female and nonbinary students will be provided in a way that is welcoming, safe and inclusive for all students.

At the conclusion of the public random drawing, all students who were not granted admission due to capacity will be given the option to put their name on a wait list according to their draw in the lottery. This wait list will allow students the option of enrollment in the case of an opening

⁵ A homeless or housing insecure student is defined as a child without a regular, fixed and adequate nighttime residence. This may include a student living in a shelter, temporary home, motel, car, campground or on the street, or include a student temporarily living with relatives or friends because of the loss of permanent housing.

⁶ A child who lives in a household that has a history of contact with or is under the supervision of the child welfare system in Los Angeles County.

⁷ The student has had early contact (have not been detained) with the probation department.

during the current school year. In no circumstance will a wait-list carry over to the following school year.

Public random drawing rules, deadlines, dates and times will be communicated in the application form and on the SEED School's web site. Public notice for the date and time of the public random drawing will also be posted once the application deadline has passed. The School will also inform all applicants and interested parties of the rules to be followed during the public random drawing process via mail or email at least two weeks prior to the lottery date. The School will conduct the lottery in the spring for enrollment in fall of that year.