

Understanding the Lottery Process

What is the Lottery? If there are more eligible applicants than seats available for a Magnet Program, a computerized Lottery will be conducted to randomly assign on-time, eligible applicants to either a seat in the program or a seat on the waitlist.

Why does the Magnet Office use a Lottery? Because the number of seats available in each program is limited, the Magnet Office believes that a randomized Lottery is the only fair way to give ALL eligible students an equal chance at receiving a seat in a program.

Are students entered differently in the Lottery based on their Pathway, grades, or interview/audition score? Do these students have a better chance of getting into the program? No. All eligible applicants are treated exactly the same in the Lottery and have the same chance of getting a seat in a Magnet Program. Please keep in mind that there are two ways of looking at the evaluation process. One is based on comparing one student to another, such as a job interview would, while the other compares each individual student to a set of criteria. For the Magnet Programs, we evaluate students against a set of criteria to give all eligible students an equal chance at receiving a seat. The Magnet Office does not use a weighting system for any student, regardless of a student's pathway, academic achievements, number of applications submitted, siblings in the program, or any other special circumstances. There are no exceptions.

When will I know if there will be a Lottery for my program? Last year, almost all programs went to Lottery. However, the Magnet Office will not know if a Lottery will need to be conducted until all on-time applicants are evaluated. You will be notified as to which programs are going to Lottery in late January. (Late applicants will be considered in the Spring).

When will I know if I have a seat in a Magnet Program? Eligible on-time students will be notified of the Lottery results in mid-February. Eligible late applicants will be offered a seat after all on-time students have been offered seats. Late applications will be notified in late spring as to their placement in a program or on a wait-list.

What should I do once I am notified of the lottery results? Accept or decline your seat(s) online (you will be emailed further instructions about this process when the lottery results are posted). You must notify the office of your decision for each program seat or wait-list seat that you are offered.

What happens if I am placed on a wait-list for a Magnet Program? Students who accept their wait-list seat will be offered seats in that Program as they become available.

Can the Magnet Office open additional seats in each Magnet Program if there are still students on a wait-list? No, the number of seats in each program is determined by a number of factors, including desired class size and financial and staffing restraints. The number of program seats will not be changed.

How long can I hold a program seat and still stay on a wait-list? Approximately one month. After this time, you will be asked to decide whether you would like to keep your program seat and give up your wait-list position, or to stay on the wait-list and decline your program seat. Any decision to decline a wait-list or program seat is final.

What are the odds of moving off of a wait-list and into a Magnet program? There are many factors that affect the movement of the wait-list and it is impossible to predict how quickly the wait-list will move or if you student will be offered a seat.