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PARENT INFORMATION CENTER OF DELAWARE

DELAWARE'S SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM & STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

AT A GLANCE

The Delaware School Choice Program is a program that allows parents to apply for their child to attend a school that is not their child's school of residence (the "home school" or "feeder school" for that student's address). Parents living in Delaware may apply for their child to attend a Delaware public school in any school district, charter school, magnet school, or vocational-technical school. If not currently registered in a Delaware public school, the child must first be registered in their school of residence ("home school" or "feeder school"), and then the parent can submit a request for School Choice.

HOW DOES A PARENT APPLY FOR SCHOOL CHOICE?

The parent must use the standard application form to apply for School Choice, which can be found along with other School Choice resources, at the Delaware Department of Education's (DOE's) School Choice webpage at the following link: <https://education.delaware.gov/families/k12/school-choice/>, or on each school district's School Choice website page at the following link:

<https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ChoiceApplications.aspx>

Note that a parent may apply to more than one school district or school for School Choice.

SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 11, 2023

In deciding school district(s)/school(s) for which you will apply as part of the School Choice Program, it is important to review carefully the school district's or school's policies for the School Choice program (including any policies regarding transportation). It is also important to make sure that you have included all required information as part of your School Choice application.

CAN THE PARENT OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY APPLY FOR SCHOOL CHOICE?

Yes, the parent of a child with a disability may apply for School Choice in the same way that a parent would apply for School Choice for a child who does not have a disability.

Please note that the School Choice program is different from a placement decision made by the home school district's IEP (Individualized Education Program) team to address a child's individualized needs.





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WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR A PARENT TO APPLY FOR SCHOOL CHOICE?

If a parent wants to apply for School Choice for the 2023-2024 school year, the parent must submit the application by January 11, 2023.

There are two types of exceptions to the January 11, 2023 deadline:

1. There is a different deadline for a parent to apply for School Choice for a child who will start kindergarten during the 2023-2024 school year. A parent enrolling their child in kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year may submit the School Choice application form to the receiving school district until the first day of the school year for enrollment in kindergarten.
2. A parent may submit a School Choice application after the January 11, 2023 deadline for “good cause.” A definition of “good cause” is included in the School Choice Application Form for each school district, charter school, magnet school, or vocational-technical school, using the link for each found at DOE’s School Choice webpage at: <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ChoiceApplications.aspx>

HOW CAN I GET SCHOOL CHOICE INFORMATION FOR A PARTICULAR SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, OR VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND ITS APPLICATION FORM?

You can find information about the School Choice program specific to each particular school district, charter school, and vocational-technical school, by using the links at: <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ChoiceApplications.aspx>. The information and resources for each school district, charter school, or vocational-technical school include: a description of its School Choice policies, contact information for its School Choice program, and the School Choice application form.

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WHAT ARE SOME HELPFUL RESOURCES ABOUT DELAWARE'S SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM?

1. The Delaware Department of Education's School Choice webpage, which includes both general information about School Choice, as well as links to School Choice information and resources (including application form, contact, and program description) for each specific school district, charter school, or vocational-technical school: <https://education.delaware.gov/families/k12/school-choice/>
2. The SchoolChoiceDE.org website – A central location for information about School Choice in Delaware, which also includes contact and application information for each school district, charter school, or vocational-technical school and descriptions of specific school programs:
<https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ChoiceApplications.aspx>
3. Title 14 Delaware Code (Chapter 4) – The Delaware state law regarding the School Choice Program:
<https://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c004/index.shtml>

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