

# ACCESS Academy Admissions

## Process Questions and Answers for Educators and Parents

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### Who is eligible to enroll in ACCESS Academy?

Students in grades 1-8 who are PPS residents and meet two criteria:

- 1. Applicant has a composite score at the 99th percentile on a nationally-normed assessment of Reading, Math, and/or Cognitive Ability**  
Score/s may be from a variety of valid normed assessments and/or the Smarter Balanced Assessment (standardized test students taken in the Spring starting at Grade 3).
- 2. Applicant has demonstrated need and would benefit from placement in the ACCESS Program**  
A student must also meet eligibility as directed by the ACCESS Charter criteria. The applicant's family and current educators must consider a body of evidence that suggests ACCESS is of greatest benefit to the student.

### How do families apply for ACCESS?

There are two steps to the application process:

- 1. Complete and submit an **ACCESS Application** and supporting documents.*
- 2. Complete a PPS School Choice Application (SchoolMint), including, if appropriate, an income eligibility form.*

### How is ACCESS eligibility determined in the ACCESS Application?

**Best practice** is for a school based team (including parent/s) to meet. This may include anyone who is a critical person in the child's education. Use the following criteria to foster dialogue about the child's needs. Applicant may meet any **one** the following criteria:

- The district believes that the student's educational interests and needs are best met in an alternative setting
- The student has met or exceeded all, or majority of, benchmarks or standards for their age
- The student is not benefiting from a regular educational program
- The student exhibits, or has the potential to exhibit, substantial underachievement in relationship to their ability
- The student exhibits erratic attendance, low self-esteem, and/or difficulty with peers

If a school based team has convened and discussed the student's educational needs, the team completes the application being sure to answer all required questions. Once the team decides, the student is automatically entered into the lottery. **No further evaluation is required; there are no additional external reviewers or rubrics needed.**

**In lieu of a team based meeting, a family who is not able to meet with their neighborhood school may still apply using the Access Application for admission, and a statement of need from an educator/counselor who knows the child best.** Once completed and all required info is provided, the student is automatically entered into the lottery. No further evaluation is required.

**How many open seats are there per grade level for the 2019-20 school year? \***

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Male 2019-2020</b>	<b>Female 2019-2020</b>
<b>First</b>	6 Slots	6 Slots
<b>Second</b>	1 Slot	2 Slots
<b>Third</b>	12 Slots	18 Slots
<b>Fourth</b>	4 Slots	17 Slots
<b>Fifth</b>	No Slots Available as of 1/2019 (subject to change)	7 Slots
<b>Sixth</b>	No Slots Available as of 1/2019 (subject to change)	7 Slots
<b>Seventh</b>	6 Slots	4 Slots
<b>Eighth</b>	1 Slot	7 Slots

\* Slots available as of January 2019. Additional seats are possible with student transfers and family mobility. We encourage parents to apply if their child meets the requirements of the program no matter the number of slots available.

**What is the lottery?**

Parents will also be required to complete the PPS School Choice (SchoolMint) application through the Office of Enrollment and Transfer. A lottery will be conducted to choose which students will be accepted into open seats at ACCESS. Slots are designated by gender. Students who identify as gender non-binary may apply for either male or female slots. A portion of seats will be reserved for applicants who meet income eligibility requirements and siblings of currently enrolled ACCESS students. The remaining seats will be filled based on lottery numbers only.

Students who are not placed because of lack of space will move to a waitlist, which remains in effect for the school year. Enrollment and Transfer Center staff will make waitlist offers based on the order determined by the lottery and space availability provided by the Principal of ACCESS.

**What happens if the student is eligible for ACCESS but does not get in?**

If TAG identified, families may request an written **Individual TAG Plan** to best ensure the needs of the student are met. The building TAG Facilitator will provide guidance to teachers and support in completion of plans, per request. A TAG TOSA may also provide support to the TAG Facilitator to write the plan.

**When will parents receive lottery results?**

Results will be communicated to parents 4-6 weeks after the application period closes on April 25.

**Do students who applied to ACCESS in prior years have to apply again?**

Yes. However, students who were previously approved to ACCESS for the 2017-18 or 2018-2019 school year, and did not get in through the lottery, declined their slot or moved away are not required to complete the ACCESS application to re-establish eligibility. SchoolMint lottery applications are necessary for all applicants.