

PPS RESIDENT LOTTERY RULES & PREFERENCES

Rev. 1/14/2025

General Lottery Rules

- The PPS resident lottery is open to students who live within the district boundary. Students who live in other districts must wait until the inter-district transfer application opens each spring, unless they have already received an inter-district transfer for the next school year.
- Lottery applicants may select up to three choices. If there are more applicants than slots in any category, lottery numbers are used to determine which students are selected using preferences and gender weight established in PPS Policy [4.10.051-P](#).
- All first-choice applicants are considered before any second-choice applicants, followed by third-choice applicants, if there are any remaining slots. Focus options are very popular, and most slots are filled with first choice applicants. Results from recent lotteries can be found at <http://www.pps.net/Page/10354>.
- Students must enroll in their approved transfer schools within the first ten days of the 2025-26 school year. Families may have to meet additional requirements in order for their students to be eligible for the lottery. Families who do not fulfill requirements by a designated date will forfeit their lottery result.

Lottery Preferences and Weights

SEE LIST BY PROGRAM ON PAGE 3

Lottery preferences:

- **Co-enrolled sibling preference:** Co-enrolled siblings are brothers or sisters who live in the same household and will be enrolled in the same school/program at the same time. Co-enrolled sibling preference applies to an applicant's first choice where at least one sibling is currently enrolled.
- **Income eligibility preference:** Students who attend Head Start pre-kindergarten or qualify for Federally-funded free and reduced-price meals receive lottery preference for schools and programs where there are fewer meal-eligible students than the district average.

Annual school and district free meal by direct certification [reports](#) are used to determine which lottery schools/programs qualify for the preference. Direct Certification is a process conducted by states and local educational agencies to certify eligible children for free meals without the need for household applications.

The number of students directly certified is a subset of the total number of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. To determine the proportion of slots at each eligible lottery school or program, the district direct certification rate is multiplied by 1.6, as per guidance from the US Department of Agriculture.

For the 2025-26 lotteries, income eligibility priority will be used at schools and programs with direct certification rates at or below 31.3%. At those schools and programs, up to 50.1% of lottery slots will be reserved for income eligible students. Families may be asked to verify their income prior to finalizing lottery offers which are based on income eligibility preference.

Gender weighting: A small weighted factor for gender is applied to the student's lottery number, increasing the student's number per school. The goal of the weight over time is to more closely reflect the gender averages of the district. Students who identify as non-binary will receive a weighted factor in all lotteries. The district averages for gender by school are collected at the start of the lottery cycle.

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Lottery Slot Groupings

Dual Language Immersion: Most Dual Language Immersion programs divide applicants into groups based on the applicant's language experience and home address, with separate slots for each language and geographic grouping.

- **Language groupings:** Dual Language Immersion programs are most successful when students have diverse language backgrounds. Applicants are grouped based on their connection to the Immersion partner language:
 - **Native speaker:** a student who has been primarily communicating (both in speaking and listening) in the partner language with at least one parent/guardian since birth. This does NOT include bilingual childcare or preschool.
 - **Heritage speaker:** a student who primarily speaks English but who has family members (i.e. parents or grandparents) who are/were native speakers of the partner language.
 - **Speaker of another language:** a student who is not a native or heritage speaker of the Partner Language. This includes: students from families who only speak English; students whose families speak another language at home, that does not include the partner language; students with some partner language proficiency through instruction or exposure from a family member (i.e. bilingual daycare provider)
- **Neighborhood-only programs:** James John, Scott and Sitton Spanish Immersion programs are open only to students who live within the school attendance boundaries. There are no lottery slots for students who live outside the school attendance boundaries.
- **Neighborhood grouping:** For programs that are co-located with neighborhood schools, students who live in the school attendance boundaries are a separate lottery group.
- **Regional preference:** Following **Resolution 4383**, there are four [K-12 Spanish Immersion regions in PPS](#). Kindergarten applicants who live within the region are selected in the lottery above applicants who live in other regions. For example, a kindergarten applicant who lives in the Stephenson neighborhood, in SW Portland, will run through the Ainsworth Spanish Immersion lottery before a student who lives in the Sabin neighborhood in NE Portland. See Page 5 for regional groupings.
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Chinese Immersion Program:** The groupings for this program include slots for students who attend the Albina Head Start Chinese Immersion and the Dr. M.L. King Pre-K program.

Benson Regional Balance: Following Resolution #4866, Benson applicants are grouped by their neighborhood HS zones, in order for the lotter to result in a student body that is broadly reflective of the district at large. Benson students will be selected based on weighted lottery number, sibling status and forecast school, or the school a student is expected to attend if he or she is not approved elsewhere. The maximum number from each forecast school will be determined based on the overall applicant pool. If possible, fewer than 50 students will be selected from each forecast school. The balancer is used only when there are more total applicants than openings at a grade level.

PPS LOTTERY PREFERENCES AND GROUPINGS

| Lottery Schools and Programs | Lottery Preferences | | Lottery Slot Groupings | | | Additional Information |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|---|
| | Co-Enrolled Sibling | Income Eligibility | Language | Neighborhood | Region | |
| Buckman Arts E.S. | ★ | | | | | Neighborhood students can enroll directly with the school and do not go through lottery |
| Bridger Creative Science K-8 | ★ | ★ | | | | Neighborhood students can enroll directly with the school and do not go through lottery |
| Odyssey K-8 | ★ | ★ | | | | |
| Sunnyside Environmental K-8 | ★ | ★ | | | | Neighborhood students can enroll directly with the school and do not go through lottery |
| Winterhaven STEAM K-8 | ★ | ★ | | | | |
| da Vinci Arts M.S. | ★ | ★ | | | | |
| Benson Polytechnic H.S. | ★ | | | | ★ | |
| Jefferson Middle College H.S. | ★ | | | | | |
| ACCESS Academy Gr 2-8 | ★ | ★ | | | | Income Eligibility preference applied before Co-Enrolled Sibling preference |
| Metro Learning Center K-12 | ★ | ★ | | | | Income Eligibility preference applied before Co-Enrolled Sibling preference |
| Ainsworth E.S. Spanish Immersion | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | See Program Progression Pattern for regional groupings |
| Atkinson E.S. Spanish Immersion | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | See Program Progression Pattern for regional groupings |
| Beach E.S. Spanish Immersion | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | ★ | See Program Progression Pattern for regional groupings |
| Cesar Chavez K-8 Spanish Immersion | ★ | | ★ | ★ | ★ | See Program Progression Pattern for regional groupings |
| Lent E.S. Spanish Immersion | ★ | | ★ | | ★ | Neighborhood students can enroll directly with the school and do not go through lottery |
| James John E.S. Spanish Immersion | ★ | | ★ | ★ | | No lottery slots for students who live outside the school boundary |
| Scott E.S. Spanish Immersion | ★ | | ★ | ★ | | No lottery slots for students who live outside the school boundary |
| Sitton E.S. Spanish Immersion | ★ | | ★ | ★ | | No lottery slots for students who live outside the school boundary |
| Dr M.L. King Jr. E.S. Chinese Immersion | ★ | | ★ | | | Lottery groupings for Albina Head Start and Dr. M.L. King Jr PK students |
| Clark E.S. Chinese Immersion | ★ | | ★ | ★ | | |
| Woodstock E.S. Chinese Immersion | ★ | | ★ | ★ | | |
| Richmond E.S. Japanese Immersion | ★ | ★ | ★ | | | |
| Kelly E.S. Russian Immersion | ★ | | ★ | | | |
| Rose City Park E.S. Vietnamese Imm | ★ | ★ | ★ | | | |

SPANISH DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION HIGH SCHOOL REGIONAL ASSIGNMENT

