

District outlines deadlines for 2012-2013 Choice process

Submit application by February 1st deadline for priority consideration

Last year, the Adams 12 Five Star Schools received more than 2,200 Choice applications for the 2011-2012 school year. In accordance with the state's open enrollment law, the district's Choice Program allows for students to apply to attend schools outside of their attendance area boundary. Those who are approved for Choice are responsible for their own transportation.

Both in-district and out-of-district students can apply for Choice. Out-of-district Choice requests are considered after in-district applications. Acceptance to a Choice school is based upon several criteria: availability of space, sufficient teaching staff, appropriate programs and the necessary facilities for special needs students.

The deadline for priority consideration is February 1, 2012. Parents and students submitting an application for priority consideration will be notified of the results of their application after February 8, 2012. If the number of requests exceeds the spaces available for priority consideration in a given school, the district will hold a lottery.

The second and final deadline to submit a Choice application for the 2012-2013 school year will be April 1, 2012. These requests will be considered based upon the date of the application. Notification of approval or denial will be made no later than the third week of April.

Applications received after April 1, 2012 will not be considered for the 2012-2013 school year.

The district determines the acceptance of Choice requests. For traditional schools, extended day tuition-based kindergarten does not go through the choice program. For magnet schools, extended day tuition-based kindergarten **does** go through the Choice process. In-district students are not required to apply for choice to attend secondary programs like Horizon SOAR, Thornton High's International Baccalaureate (IB), Legacy 2000, Mountain Range Mandarin Chinese and Century Middle MYP. Application and acceptance to those programs goes through the individual school. Out-of-district students must be approved to attend the secondary school via Choice and must be approved to attend the school's program via the individual school's application process.

Parents of extended day, tuition-based kindergarteners at traditional schools should note that enrollment in that program does not automatically mean the student will go to the same school for first grade. The student must apply through the Choice Program for first grade placement if he/she wants to go to a school other than his/her boundary school. Also note that the school the child attended for kindergarten may not necessarily be open for Choice. Parents of extended day, tuition-based kindergarteners for magnet schools do not need to reapply for Choice as their Choice approval remains in effect through the highest grade served at their magnet school.

The duration of a Choice placement is valid only for the grades which that school serves. For example, if a student attends a Choice elementary school, the approval is valid to the end of fifth grade, as long as there are no significant changes in that school's enrollment or facilities. When a student transitions from elementary to middle school or from middle to high school, they must reapply for Choice. If they don't, the student's placement automatically reverts to their boundary school.

While not a guarantee, when possible, priority will be given to sibling applications for Choice so that families will attend the same school. A second priority will be given to siblings who have a one-year lapse of concurrent enrollment.

Adams 12 Five Star Schools will determine the schools open to Choice for the 2012-2013 school year no later than December 1, 2011. These will be published in the December issue of the Five Star Journal and will be posted online at the district web site at www.adams12.org/choice_schools.

New this year, the district will be implementing an online application for choice. This application will be available on December 1st at <http://www.adams12.org/choice>. For families without computer access, applications will be available at each school and at the Educational Support Center. To learn more about the Choice Program and to get answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the district web site at <http://www.adams12.org/choice>.