



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs) About Midtown Educational Opportunities

1. Is financial aid available at schools with tuition?

Most tuition based schools offer financial aid. The majority of private schools advise families of aid awarded when acceptance letters are received, or alternatively provide information concerning the statistical likelihood of projected aid, if any.

2. Does the school have a waiting list?

- This data can sometimes change very quickly depending on the school and the phase of the enrollment cycle
- Parents should contact schools directly
- In addition to asking about if the school has a waiting list, families should ask about what percentage of students have historically been accepted from the waiting list

3. How many applications are received how many slots available, etc.?

This data can vary per grade level within a school and from year to year based on any expansion plans schools may have. Therefore, families should contact schools directly and ask the following questions:

- How many slots will the school have for the coming year for your child's grade level?
- If the child is entering a grade level other than Kindergarten or another grade level that is the first year students can attend that school, families should also ask how many slots does the school believe will be open for students new to the school?

4. Are there Pre-K options in Midtown?

There are many Pre-K and Preschool choices in Midtown. Please see the list at midtownindy.org/education for a list of schools in and near Midtown.

5. Describe process to attend schools outside of Midtown (Washington Township etc.)

Though not all of the districts have a clear process for families who do not reside in their district but wish to attend their schools, several of the districts have a process that is outlined below. Parents should contact the districts that don't have a specific process listed on the internet via telephone.

- Lawrence Township
 - Parent must complete an Out of District Application
 - This application can be found on the district's website
 - Only non-resident students who attended PK in Lawrence Township will be able to attend KG in the district
- Perry Township
 - Parents must complete an inter-district transfer application
- Pike Township
 - Only families residing in Pike Township may enroll their students in MSD Pike Township
- School Town of Speedway
 - District has closed borders
- Washington Township
 - Parents must fill out a non-resident application
 - Students entering grades K-3 will be required to take an assessment that will be considered in the application
 - There is a fee associated; the amount of this fee is based on a formula used by the State Board of Accounts
- Wayne Township
 - Parents must fill out a non-resident application
 - Families expected to pay tuition

6. Describe process to attend magnet schools in Indianapolis

- Any IPS parent or guardian living in the IPS district can submit an application.
- Applications are also accepted if a parent is intending to move into the IPS district. These students may participate in the lottery; however the parent must have moved into IPS by July 1st in order to accept the magnet placement.
- Out of district applications will be accepted with the understanding that non-IPS students will be assigned to available spaces after the placement of IPS students.
- Current magnet students do not have to reapply in order to remain in their magnet school.
- All information on the student application must be complete, correct, and signed by the parent in order to be processed.
- Students new to IPS must first enroll. Students on inactive status must pre-register. Completion of an enrollment form, proof of address, original birth certificate and immunization records are required.
- Up to three program choices are allowed on the application
- After the December deadline, only two choices are allowed.
- Students applying for magnet programs must demonstrate previous academic success. Middle school and high school programs may require one or more of the following: teacher recommendations, auditions, essays, portfolios or parent and student contracts. Eligibility information for each program is included after each program description.
- Applications are available in all Indianapolis Public Schools as well as the **Magnet Office at the John Morton-Finney Center for Educational Services, 120 E. Walnut Street, Room 104B**, or applications can also be found by clicking [here](#).

LOTTERY SELECTION PROCESS FOR ON-TIME APPLICATIONS ONLY

- Assignments are made using a lottery selection process. Students will be assigned to programs using a random lottery with preferences given to siblings, and those with priority eligibility. Some magnet programs also give proximity priority. If all available seats in a program are assigned, then a waiting list for each program will be generated. A student may hold a place on no more than two waiting lists. Once an applicant's name is reached on the waiting list, he/she will be removed from the remaining waiting list.

ADMISSION

- Students will be notified by mail on or before March 1st regarding the status of their on-time applications for the following school year.

LATE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Late applications are processed in the order they are received. Parents may make up to two selections and students can be placed on two waiting lists. Once an applicant is assigned, he/she will be removed from the remaining waiting list. **Sibling preference and priority eligibility do not apply to late applicants.**

7. What are vouchers and who can use them for which schools?

Vouchers allow the parents of students who are zoned to attend a failing public schools to use state funds to attend a private school. Income limits apply. Visit <http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/school-choice/voucher-income-guidelines-2013-2014.pdf> to learn more.

8. What is the lottery method of school admission?

This varies significantly by schools. So, it is recommended that families contact schools or school districts directly. When contacting schools, families should ask the following questions

- When is the application deadline for students to enter into the lottery?
- When will the lottery be held?
- How long will it take after the lottery for families to hear about the results of the lottery?
- Do siblings or other family members of current students receive priority in the process?
- IPS advises that the lottery is managed and conducted by computer. We understand most magnet schools rank preference for entry by 1) a sibling already attends the school, and 2) the prospective student lives within a mile of the school. Some families have been critical of delays between notification that a student was not admitted to the “1st choice” school and notification of such student’s spot on the wait list.

9. What time during the year should parents begin to find a school for their children?

Whenever possible, parents should begin researching school options a full academic year prior to when they would like to enroll their child into another school. This allows families to ensure that they will not miss deadlines for mandatory assessments, interviews, home visits, or financial aid that may be included in the process of enrolling a child in a private school. This will also ensure that the family will not miss open houses, information nights, or lottery application/enrollment deadlines in the event that they would like to enroll their child in a magnet or charter school.