

Students

Racine Unified School District Choice Program Enrollment

Racine Unified School District has established RUSD Choice Programs which are designed to meet the unique interest of students, while stressing academics through varied and challenging curriculum.

1. Lottery System

A parent or guardian who wishes to request placement for his/her student in an RUSD Choice Program may do so during the annual District designated Choice Enrollment window. The Choice Enrollment Program is done through a lottery system with no weight placed on any school or date of request.

a) Choice Program Options

- 1) The following Choice Program option programs are available for all students.
- 2) Grades 6-12: The REAL school, Walden III
- 3) Grades KG - 5: Red Apple, Jefferson Lighthouse
- 4) Ages 3 through 12: Montessori at Goodland
- 5) Grades KG-8: Gilmore Fine Arts (*beginning Fall 2018*)
- 6) Grades 6-8: Starbuck IB (*beginning Fall 2018*)

b) Application for Other Schools/Programs

- 1) Students wishing to enter all other schools or programs outside of their attendance area not listed in Section 1a must apply through the school choice process contained within Section 3; however, sibling preference will not apply with regard to such applications.
- 2) Applications for schools and programs under this Section 1b will only reach the school choice process contained within Section 3 if the applicant meets the applicable eligibility criteria attached to the respective school or program applied to, if any (*e.g.*, high school applicants seeking to attend the International Baccalaureate Full Diploma Program at Case High School must be eligible to participate in the program prior to their application being submitted to the school choice process).
- 3) Students who wish to attend a specific Academy Pathway (*i.e.*, Aviation at Horlick High School, Automotive at Park High School) will be provided transportation provided they remain in these specific pathways with successful credit completion in that chosen pathway throughout their high school experience. Transportation would start with a student's freshman year if they know for sure that this is their chosen pathway coming out of middle school. A student could also transfer at the end of their freshman year after they have chosen one of these three pathways. If a student changes their pathway other than to their original selection, they will be required to return to their attendance area high school. Transportation will only be provided to their attendance area high school. If the student would like to remain at the chosen pathway high

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school, they may apply during the School Choice Window for acceptance at that school site.

- 4) A parent or guardian who wishes to apply to a school or program under this Section 1b should contact the District's Chief Academic Officer to obtain the respective eligibility criteria, if any, for the program(s) or school(s) desired.

2. Admissions for Choice Program Options

Students will be admitted in accordance with the priorities listed below.

- a) First priority will be given to students continuing from one grade level to another at that RUSD Choice Program.
- b) Second priority will then be given to:
 - 1) Sixth (6th) or ninth (9th) grade students who are siblings of students continuing through the twelfth (12th) grade during the year of enrollment in The REAL School or Walden III.
 - 2) Kindergarten students who are siblings of students continuing through the fifth grade during the year of enrollment in Jefferson Light House or Red Apple.
 - 3) Students who are age 3 and siblings of students continuing through the age 12 during the year of enrollment in the Montessori Program at Goodland.
 - 4) Kindergarten or sixth (6th) grade students who are siblings of students continuing through 8th grade during the year of enrollment at Gilmore Fine Arts.
 - 5) Sixth (6th) grade students who are siblings of students continuing through eighth (8th) grade during the year of enrollment at Starbuck IB.
- c) In the event there are more requests than available seats in an RUSD Choice Program, after the priorities listed above have been met, students will be admitted based on a lottery list. Applicants will be randomly sorted and either offered admission or placed on a waitlist (*for 1st choice only*).

If additional seats become available, then those seats will be offered to persons in accordance with their position on the waitlist.

- d) Seats for students may be filled by the Superintendent or designee in extenuating circumstances.

(A sibling is defined as a brother or sister by blood, adopted or step, who live in the same household.*

**Under this Regulation, a step-sibling shall only satisfy the definition of a "sibling" if such step-sibling is the child of a student's step-parent by a marriage other than that with the student's own*

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biological father or mother. For students who reside with both parents, but separate households, a joint legal custody document must be on file with the enrollment office.)

3. Admissions for Other Schools/Programs under Section 1b

Students who meet the respective eligibility requirements of the school(s)/program(s) they have applied for, if any, will be admitted in accordance with the priorities listed below.

- a) First priority will be given to students continuing from one grade level to another at the School or within the Program.
- b) In the event there are more requests than available seats in a School or Program, after the priorities listed above have been met, students will be admitted based on a lottery list. Applicants will be randomly sorted and either offered admission or placed on a waitlist (for 1st choice only).

If additional seats become available, then those seats will be offered to persons in accordance with their position on the waitlist.

- c) Seats for students may be filled by the Superintendent or designee in extenuating circumstances.

4. Withdrawal

Once a student withdraws from an RUSD Choice Program to attend another public or private school, that student will need to reapply in accordance with this regulation.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Administrative Code, PI 48

Policy adopted: April 23, 2001

Administrative Regulation revised: December 21, 2015

Administrative Regulation revised: November 20, 2017

Administrative Regulation revised: July 16, 2018