



Odyssey Charter School

Odyssey Charter School Admissions Procedure

2024/2025 School Year

1. Odyssey Charter School (a State of Delaware public charter school) will participate in the State of Delaware choice/charter school open enrollment period from the first Monday in November through the second Wednesday in January of the school year preceding enrollment. (November 6, 2023, through January 10, 2024 for the 2024/2025 school year.) All interested legal residents¹ of the State of Delaware desiring to attend Odyssey Charter School must complete an application and submit that application during open enrollment, including founders, employees, siblings, and any other interested parties. It is preferred that applications be made online at <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ApplyInfo/Odyssey>. Paper applications are available from the admissions office at the school by request. All applications received after the deadline, but postmarked by the deadline, will be considered received by the deadline. If oversubscribed at the end of the open application period, Odyssey Charter School will hold an electronic* lottery, applying preferences as stated in the charter and in this document, and allowed by state law. Applications received after the open enrollment period will be placed at the end of the waiting list after the lottery has concluded. If not oversubscribed, Odyssey Charter School will conditionally admit all eligible students who apply within the open application period to any open spots and will add additional students as applications are received in the order that they are received. Applications must be complete (*including registration/pre-registration in a Delaware public*) in order to be included in the lottery.
2. **Due to Senate Bill 82, any student not currently registered in a public school in the State of Delaware must be registered in their School of Residence** before submitting a Delaware Standard Application for Educational Options (Choice/Charter application.) A District or School of Residence is the district or school a student is assigned to attend based on the student's home address. See <https://education.delaware.gov/families/k12/enroll-in-public-school/> for information regarding how to register or pre-register your child. Applications missing registration/pre-registration in a Delaware public school will be incomplete. Applications incomplete at lottery time will not be included in the Odyssey Charter School lottery.
3. The electronic lottery will be held after open enrollment in January or February of 2024. Results will be emailed (and/or mailed) to families as required by law no later than Tuesday, February 28, 2024. Please be sure to add HelpDesk@SchoolChoiceDE.org to your trusted senders so that communications regarding the choice process do not go to your spam or junk email folders. More information including deadlines will be available at <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/>.
4. **Greek FLES Program and Greek Immersion Program**

KINDERGARTEN and 1st GRADE APPLICANTS ONLY:

Kindergarten and 1st Grade Program Information:

- In the Greek FLES Program, all students learn their core academic subjects in English with an additional Greek language and Greek math class each day.
- In the Greek Immersion Program, students receive half their core academic subjects in English (for reading, language arts and social studies) and the other half of their core academic subjects in Greek (for mathematics, science, and Greek language/culture) each day.

- Immersion students commit to continued participation in immersion programming for the remainder of their enrollment at Odyssey.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade application procedures:

- Applicants who are interested in BOTH programs should choose a first and a second choice.
- If a second choice is not selected, applicants will only be considered for one program.
- If an applicant is invited to one program, they will NOT remain on the waitlist for the other program.

APPLICANTS FOR GRADES 2-10:

- All Odyssey Charter School students are required to take Greek foreign language classes as part of their academic programming regardless of the grade-level at which they enrolled at the school.
 - All new applicants in Grade 2 and above are enrolled in the traditional Greek FLES Program. The Greek Immersion Program is only available to new OCS applicants beyond kindergarten or 1st grade who can demonstrate prior knowledge of the Greek language.
 - All High School students are required to take 3 credits of Greek courses.
5. Odyssey Charter School will show preference in filling the positions in the school, as allowed by Delaware State Law. The following preferences will be applied during the lottery in the order listed below.
- A. Children of Founding Members - The Board will maintain a list on file. This number cannot exceed 5% of the total seats available. See [OCS DOE Charter pg. 39](#) online for the list of founding members.
 - B. Children of current full-time employees of Odyssey Charter School and who will be full-time employees the next school year.
 - C. Siblings of children currently attending the school and that will be in attendance the next school year. **
 - D. Siblings of children conditionally accepted during this lottery, if those conditionally accepted children accept their invitations. Once the lottery begins, this preference is applied to the siblings of the newly accepted students. (If the newly accepted student does not accept the invitation, the older sibling will lose any sibling preference given in the lottery and will move to their original position on the waitlist for that grade)

Once an applicant is assigned a number on a waiting list for a given grade, that applicant will not receive sibling preference in this fiscal year's lottery due to a brother or sister being admitted to another grade later in the lottery, nor will such an applicant placed on the waiting list provide a sibling preference to a brother or sister who is applying for any other grade(s).

Example 1: Joe Smith, 1st grade, and Ann Smith, 8th grade, are sibling applicants with no current OCS siblings. There are 3 spots open in 1st grade. Joe Smith's name is drawn 2nd in the 1st grade drawing, so he is invited to attend 1st grade. Since Joe is now invited, Ann Smith is given sibling preference in the 8th grade drawing. (Siblings of current students are drawn first, and then siblings of students conditionally accepted during the lottery (like Ann) are drawn.

Example 2. Using the same two students from the first example, Joe Smith, 1st grade, and Ann Smith, 8th grade, are sibling applicants with no current OCS siblings. There are 3 spots open in 1st grade. Joe Smith's name is drawn 84th in the 1st grade drawing. After the 3 spots in 1st grade are filled, Joe is placed at # 81 on the waitlist for 1st grade. Ann Smith's name is drawn 1st in the 8th grade drawing and she is invited to attend Odyssey for 8th grade. Joe Smith has already been given a waiting list number in the previously held 1st grade drawing, so he will not be given sibling preference. Joe will remain 81st on the waitlist for 1st grade.

Example 3. Using the same two students from the first example, Joe Smith, 1st grade, and Ann Smith, 8th grade, are sibling applicants with no current OCS siblings. There are 3 spots open in 1st grade. Joe Smith's name is drawn 2nd in the 1st grade drawing, so he is invited to attend 1st grade.

Since Joe is now invited, Ann Smith is given sibling preference in the 8th grade drawing. Using the sibling preference, Ann's name is drawn 1st, and she is invited to attend Odyssey and accepts the invitation. Joe and Ann's parents then decide NOT to accept Joe's invitation. Ann's invitation and enrollment are now withdrawn from Odyssey, and her name will go to the bottom of the waitlist for 8th grade.

Example 4. John Doe has been a student at Odyssey since kindergarten. He is now in 8th grade. His little sister Zoey Doe is admitted to kindergarten with sibling preference. Zoey is registered at Odyssey for the following school year. In September, Odyssey receives word that John Doe will not be attending high school at Odyssey. Zoey Doe now loses her spot at Odyssey, since it was obtained with sibling preference that no longer applies. She must now attend her feeder pattern school or a private school. (Sibling preference laws are meant to keep siblings in the same school.) Zoey had received unfair sibling preference, and now moves to the bottom of the waiting list for kindergarten at Odyssey. The next person on the waiting list for kindergarten will now be invited.

After the lottery, the only preferential addition to the waiting list would be for the child(ren) of a newly hired employee (hired by the school after the open enrollment period closed), or new children of current employees (via adoption, marriage, etc., which takes place after the open enrollment period has closed). These students will be placed on the waiting list at the end of the "Children of Employees" section of the waiting list; in the order their applications are received.

6. The order of the lotteries to determine admission will be K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
7. The intent of the sibling preference law is to keep families together.
SIBLING by definition is a:
 - A. Biological/adopted sibling
 - B. Step-siblings residing in the same household. (Step-siblings are, by definition, children of a step-parent by a legally recognized marriage other than with one's own father or mother.)
 - C. Foster children residing within the same household.
 - D. **Step-siblings living in different households are not considered for sibling preference.**
8. After open enrollment, those who still wish to apply may do so at <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ApplyInfo/Odyssey> or request an application from the admissions office. Once received, the application would be placed on the waiting list in the order received.
9. Applications are only valid for one year. New applications for the following year will need to be submitted for next year's consideration during open enrollment. The waiting list does not carry over from year to year.
10. Applicants must apply to the next consecutive grade level that they would matriculate to if they were to remain in their current school (For example, a current 1st grade student must apply to 2nd grade.) Students must be academically promoted (not assigned) to the appropriate grade for the following school year in order to attend Odyssey Charter School.
11. Students applying for kindergarten do not necessarily have to be currently enrolled in a pre-K program. An official birth certificate showing that the child will turn five-years old by August 31st of the kindergarten year will be required during the application process for the student to be officially considered for acceptance. Odyssey Charter School does not consider students for early acceptance.
12. The order of the waiting list is established according to the rules described above. It should be noted, however, that the number of openings in any grade may fluctuate based on other factors such as student

withdrawals, retentions, reassignment of students to other grades or specific classes, finances, etc. These changes may occur at any time and will affect the number of openings available but not the order of students on the waiting list established during the lottery process.

13. If any information from the parent/guardian of any student on current or previously submitted enrollment applications is found to be false and/or an attempt to obtain unfair lottery preference or unlawful early admission, the application and enrollment will be considered null and void, and will result in the rejection of the application form, disqualification from the lottery process if applicable, withdrawal of invitation offer, and/or termination of school choice by Odyssey Charter School for any current and future applications for that student, and/or from that parent/guardian for any other student.

14. Eligibility for Admission

- a. Odyssey Charter School admits students based on the Delaware Education Code Title 14, Chapter 5 governing charter schools:
 - (i) *Prohibit discrimination in admission policy on the basis of sex, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, academic, artistic, or athletic ability, or the district the child would otherwise attend in accordance with this code, although the charter may provide for the exclusion of a student who has a documented history of a criminal offense, a juvenile court adjudication, or discipline problems.*
- b. It is the intention of the school to reflect the community it serves and be open to any resident in the area that would otherwise attend a school in Delaware.

*Odyssey will now and in the future make use of an electronic lottery. The electronic lottery system has been tested and is used by most if not all the Delaware school districts, and many of the charter schools for the Delaware Choice/Charter School Program. It has proven to be an efficient, effective, and fair method of determining lottery selection in the school choice process. It eliminates the potential for human error and is much more efficient than a paper lottery system. Please be sure to apply at SchoolChoiceDE.org.

¹ Note: Residency must be established as of the date of the application and proper verification will be required after students have been invited, or earlier if there is an indication that the applicant does not live in Delaware. Residency must be with the primary or shared custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) -- not other relatives or friends. Residence must be student's primary home, not a rental property, vacation home, place of business, etc.