Hawthorn Academy
Policy: Enrollment and Lottery Policy
Approved: June 9, 2010
Amended: November 11, 2026

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines on appropriate procedures on enrollment and lottery processes for Hawthorn Academy (the "School").

POLICY

In regards to applications, enrollment, and lottery procedures, the School will follow all state and federal laws.

General Information

Notice of the opportunity to submit an application and procedures for enrollment at the School shall be published on the School's website beginning no later than sixty (60) days before the School's initial open enrollment period. The School's website shall also include, but not be limited to, the following enrollment information: (i) a description of the procedures for applying for admission to the School; (ii) the School's calendar; and (iii) a description of how a student may transfer from the School to another charter school or district school.

For each enrollment period during which the School accepts applications from students, the School shall publicize that it is accepting applications on the School website.

The School shall follow the provisions of Utah Code § 53G-6-503, Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-551, and Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-472, each of which includes requirements related to admissions, enrollment, withdrawals, and transfers.

Lottery

For each enrollment period, if there are more applications for admission in any grade than there are available openings in that grade, the School shall conduct a lottery to determine which students will be admitted to the School. The School shall conduct its lottery electronically and notify accepted students via e-mail or telephone.

The School may implement enrollment preferences for students in accordance with Utah Code § 53G-6-502. Students receiving a preference shall not, however, be given priority notice or guaranteed admission to the School. The School shall not give preference to any student and shall not make any enrollment decision on any basis prohibited by state or federal law, including Utah Code § 53G-6-403(3)(a), federal civil rights laws, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEA").

The School's lottery shall be held in approximately January of each year with additional lotteries held periodically as needed until the desired enrollment numbers are reached. The School may, at the discretion of the School's Lead Director, continue to enroll students from the lottery throughout the school year to fill spots left open when students withdraw.

Past Disciplinary Issues

Any student seeking enrollment in the School who was suspended or expelled from another school for disciplinary reasons will not be admitted to the School until a thorough review of the student's prior conduct is evaluated by the administration and the administration approves the student to be admitted. In addition, the School may not enroll a student from another school unless the student record from the previous school, including the discipline file (if applicable), is received or the School's administration reviews the data gateway for any safe-school violation, reintegration, or threat assessment.

In accordance with Utah Code § 53G-8-205(3), the School may deny admission to the School to students who were expelled from the School or any other school during the preceding twelve (12) months.

Consistent with Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-472-7, the School may deny admission to the School to students who have disciplinary procedures pending at their previous school until previous allegations have been resolved. The School generally recognizes and honors disciplinary actions imposed on a student by another school. Accordingly, the School may deny admission to a student who is currently under suspension or expulsion from another school.

In accordance with Utah Code § 53G-6-403(3)(b), the School may deny admission to students who (i) have committed serious infractions of the law or school policies, including policies of the School; (ii) have been guilty of chronic misbehavior which would, if it were to continue after the student was admitted to the School, endanger persons or property, cause serious disruptions in the School, or place unreasonable burdens on School staff; or (iii) have any school safety incidents or safe-school violations.

Parents of students seeking admission to the School must disclose in their application to the School information about their student's past serious disciplinary actions and criminal convictions. If this information is not disclosed, if materially false or misleading information is provided in the application, or if information that would have been relevant to the School's enrollment decision is omitted, and the School discovers the omission or misrepresentation after the student has been enrolled in the School, the School may place the student's enrollment under review while the School investigates the matter. Following the investigation, the School may take appropriate action in accordance with this and other School policy, which may include but is not limited to continued enrollment, continued enrollment subject to conditions, or recission of the student's enrollment if the School determines that the undisclosed information would have provided a lawful basis to deny admission at the time of the application. Parents of students whose enrollment has been rescinded consistent with this paragraph may appeal the decision in accordance with the School's Parent Grievance Policy.

During the investigation process mentioned above, the School may restrict a student's attendance at the School if deemed necessary by the School to protect student safety or facilitate the review.

Situations involving students receiving special education and related services under the IDEA will be handled in a manner consistent with applicable laws and School policy.