

District 15 Admissions FAQs

1) How do students get offers to District 15 (D15) middle schools?

All students who are zoned to D15 for middle school or who currently attend a D15 public elementary school can apply to D15 middle schools. Your child will get a middle school offer based on the choices you add to their application, your child's admissions priority group, and their randomly assigned number, as well as the number of available seats at each school.

Diversity in Admissions Priority: Applicants who are students from low-income households (see #2), students in temporary housing, and/or English Language Learners (ELLs) have an admissions priority for 52% of seats at each D15 middle school.

After all middle school applications are submitted, here is how students get offers:

- First, every applicant is assigned a random number.
- Next, applicants who are students from low-income households, students in temporary housing, and/or ELLs are matched in random-number order to their highest possible application choices until 52% of available seats at each D15 middle school are filled.
- Finally, all other applicants (including any remaining students from the groups listed above) are matched in random-number order to their highest possible application choices until all available seats are filled. If there are more applicants than available seats at a school, the students with the strongest random numbers are matched first until all seats are filled.

Each student will be considered first for their first choice, then for their second choice, and so on, so that each student gets an offer to their highest choice possible.

2) How do you determine who is from a low-income household?

For D15's Diversity in Admissions priority, students who qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch (FRL) program are considered to be from a low-income household.

3) Will District 15 middle schools continue to admit applicants based on their academic records?

No. D15 middle schools will no longer "screen" or use applicants' academic records to evaluate or admit students. If a school has more applicants than available seats, applicants will be matched in random-number order, and some students will have priority for 52% of its seats (see #1).

4) If my child does not get an offer to their first-choice school, do they then have a lower chance of getting an offer to another choice in their application?

No. If your child does not match to their first choice, they will then be considered for their second choice. At that point, their chances of matching to their second choice will be the same as if you'd placed it first in the application. If they do not match to their second choice, they will be considered for their third choice, and so on.

5) Let's say my child's first choice is an in-demand school and they do not get an offer to attend it. If their second choice is also in demand, could my child get an offer from that school, or will its seats be filled by students who placed it first?

In this case, your child could get an offer from their second choice. Students' randomly assigned numbers decide the order in which they are matched to their choices. For example, if you place a school second but your child has a higher random number than a student whose family placed that school first, your child will be matched to that school before the other student, provided there are available seats.

6) In my child's application, should I place school choices in my true order of preference?

Yes! In the application, place the middle schools that you'd want your child to attend in your true order of preference, with your first choice as #1. There are no benefits to placing your choices in any other order. If your child does not get an offer to your first choice, they will then be considered for their second choice, and so on.

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7) After I add my top choices, should I add additional schools to my child's application?

Yes. If you do not get an offer to a school you've placed in your application, you will get an offer to another school with available seats. This means that after you place your top-choice schools, you should continue to add schools to your application. Adding additional choices does not lower your chance of getting an offer to one of your top-choice schools, but does maximize your chances of getting into a school you have selected.

8) What happens if my child doesn't get an offer to one of their choices?

Each student will be considered first for their first choice, then for their second choice, then their third, and so on, so that each student gets an offer to their highest choice possible. If they do not match to any of the schools, they will be matched to a school with available seats. We will work with families throughout the process to ensure they are matched to a school that meets their needs.

9) How will students be admitted to Dual Language (DL) programs?

Students who currently attend an elementary school DL program are eligible to apply to and attend a middle school DL program in the same target language. Other students may also be eligible—learn more by contacting middle schools directly.

10) Can my child apply to schools outside of D15?

Yes. Your child can apply to schools with boroughwide programs (open to all students who live or go to school in Brooklyn) or citywide programs (open to all students who live in NYC). The admissions processes at these schools may be different from D15's. If your child gets an offer to one of these programs, they will not get an offer to a D15 middle school.

11) How many middle school offers will my child get?

Each student will get one middle school offer.

12) Is the DOE creating a new admissions method just for District 15?

The admissions method now used in D15 is already used by most middle schools throughout New York City, including by MS 839. Using random selection within priority groups gives more students access to all D15 middle schools and will help student populations to better reflect the district as a whole.

13) My child has a disability and an Individualized Education Program (IEP). How do we apply to middle school?

You and your child will apply in the same way as all other families, by placing your school choices in your true order of preference in your child's application.

As in previous years, all middle schools in D15 and throughout the city will have seats specifically for students with IEPs.

- The number of seats reserved for students with disabilities at each D15 school is based on the number of D15 students with IEPs.
- 52% of these seats for students with disabilities are prioritized for students who are low income, students in temporary housing, or English Language Learners in alignment with the priority structure. This ensures that all students—regardless of disability status—have equal access to D15 middle schools.