



REGISTRATION/SCHOOL CHOICE FAQs

Kindergarten Registration will open February 21
Open Enrollment/School Choice will be open March 6 – April 4
Hardship applications will open May 2
Out-of-County registration will open June 1

Q. Who should complete a KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION?

A. Students who will be 5-years-old by September 1st, 2023 **UNLESS** they are currently enrolled in a BDS Pre-K program. These students will be automatically enrolled in their zoned school kindergarten.

Q. Who should complete a SCHOOL CHOICE/OPEN ENROLLMENT application?

A. * Students *in any grade* who do not wish to attend their zoned home school **UNLESS** student is already enrolled under the school choice program.

* Students enrolled under the school choice program in a K-8 or K-12 school **AND** who are entering 6th or 9th grade **AND** who wish to remain at that school.

Q. Who should complete a HARDSHIP application?

A. Hardships *are* a part of the school choice program. Anyone who wishes to participate in school choice, but misses the open enrollment window (March 7 – April 5) can apply for a hardship. These applications are filled on a first-come first-served basis and are based on school capacity. Hardship applications will be available beginning May 2nd and are found in the Parent Portal.

Q. What is my zoned school?

A. Students are zoned according to their home address. This is the address where student resides at least 51% of the time. You can find your school by visiting our website at <https://focus.bayschools.net/focus/find-my-school/> and entering your address.

Q. Where can I find the School Choice/Open Enrollment Application?

A. The School Choice/Open Enrollment Application is in your FOCUS Parent Portal.

Q. What digital device and browser do I need to use to fill out the application?

A. We highly recommend using a laptop/Chromebook or desktop to complete and registration and application process. Please let your school or the School Choice office know if you need access to a device.

Q. What do I do once I am in my FOCUS Parent Portal?

A. Once you are in your portal, select the student that you want to apply for School Choice. **(PLEASE NOTE: a new school choice application must be completed for each child.)** Next, select "School Choice Application." Once you are in the application you will see the first section with your name and address info. You **MUST SELECT THREE SCHOOLS**. Even if you only want one particular school, it is necessary to select **THREE**. Otherwise, the system will *not* accept your application.

Q. Why is the school I want not available as a choice?

A. Each school is limited by the number of seats available. A few of our schools are already at/beyond capacity. For that reason, they are not listed as available options in the School Choice/Open Enrollment program.

Q. How do I know if I have successfully submitted the application? Will I receive an email?

A. Yes, you will receive an email. You can make sure your application was saved/submitted by accessing it in your parent portal. You may make changes to it before 5 pm on April 4th.

Q. Are applications processed on a first-come, first served basis?

A. All **SCHOOL CHOICE/OPEN ENROLLMENT** applications are processed AFTER the April 4th deadline through a lottery procedure. **HARDSHIP** applications are processed on a first-come first-served basis, after the Open Enrollment period closes.

Q. Do I need to apply again if my student is already on School Choice now?

A. Only if your student is at a K-8 or K-12 school, AND is entering the 6th or 9th grade, AND wishes to remain at that school.

Q. When will I know and what do I need to do if my student is approved?

A. You will receive a notification in your FOCUS parent portal after April 4th. If your student is approved, **YOU MUST ACCEPT THEIR APPROVAL** in the FOCUS Parent Portal in order to complete the process of being enrolled in that school.

Q. Are charter schools part of School Choice?

A. Charter Schools have their own application/lottery process. They are NOT part of the school choice program.