



APS WELCOME CENTER

Arlington Public Schools

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VPI, Primary Montessori & Elementary Option Schools Lottery FAQ

Will I find out on the day of the lottery if my child was offered a seat at an option school or program?

APS will conduct random double-blind lotteries, which means that there is no name attached to the numbers used during the lottery. Following the lottery, Elementary Option School applicants, Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) and Primary Montessori families will be notified via email and/or text on May 1, 2019.

If my child does not get a seat in the lottery, will I find out their waitlist number?

Yes, families will receive information about their waitlist number on May 1, 2019.

What happens if I get accepted at multiple option schools?

Families will be notified on May 1, 2019 to let them know which option schools their children have received a seat at and will have until 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2019 to accept or decline any offers by sending a response to schooloptions@apsva.us or by calling 703-228-8000. **If students have been accepted to more than one option program, once a commitment is made for the fall of 2019, the student's name will be removed from any other admission and/or wait list.**

When will I find out how much my Primary Montessori payments will be for 3- and 4-year-olds?

Last year's [Montessori Fee Schedule](#) will be sent with your acceptance letter. When families come to the APS Welcome Center to register, staff will work with them to determine their exact fee amount for the 2019-20 school year.

When can I check on my waitlist status?

All of the waitlists will be updated once notifications are sent to families about receiving seats. Families will receive a notification alerting them of their location on the waitlist via email and/or text. Families will also be able to log into the [online application portal](#) to view their location on the waitlist.

What are the preferences to be accepted in the Montessori program?

The preferences to be accepted in the Montessori program align with the [Options and Transfers Policy J-5.3.31](#), and are being implemented as follows:

- Seats are first allocated to students currently enrolled in the Montessori program at Drew because “once a student is admitted to an option school/program, enrollment will be continuous through the grade levels of that school/program, unless the school is involved in a boundary change ([Options and Transfers Policy J-5.3.31](#)).”

- Preference is then given to siblings of concurrently enrolled students because “APS will keep siblings together to the extent possible given financial constraints and capacity limits ([Options and Transfers Policy J-5.3.31](#)).”
- Students completing the APS satellite Montessori programs are then given preference as there is not space to accommodate all of the primary Montessori students at Drew during the time of entry as three-year-olds. Therefore, students participating in the satellite programs are provided the opportunity to continue in the APS Montessori program once current Drew students and siblings have been placed.
- Preference is then given to all other primary and lower elementary Montessori applicants.