



Student Application Timeline for Choice and Resident Districts for Enrollment in the 2026-2027 School Year

Document Name/Process	From	Received by	Deadline
<u>Student Notifications to Resident Districts of Intent to Participate</u> (Required for <i>all</i> choice applicants)	Parent/Guardian	Resident District	11/24/2025
<u>Student Applications to Choice Districts</u>	Parent/Guardian	Choice District	11/24/2025
NJDOE data collection: District Application Data to Calculate FY2027 Choice Enrollment Maximum	Choice District	Department of Education	11/25/2025 through 12/3/2025
<u>Resident District Confirmation of Student Enrollment</u> (Submitted to <i>all</i> resident districts)	Choice District	Resident District	12/1/2025
Resident District Confirmation of Student Enrollment (Verification of enrollment by resident district)	Resident District	Choice District	12/5/2025
Lottery Date Notification	Choice District	Parent/Guardian	12/9/2025
Lottery If applicable; select date within deadline window	Choice District	N/A	12/11/2025 thru 12/15/2025
<u>Notice of Conditional Acceptance, Rejection, or Wait Listing</u>	Choice District	Parent/Guardian	12/19/2025
<u>Student's Notice of Intent to Enroll in the Choice District</u>	Parent/Guardian	Choice District	1/8/2026
Student's Notice of Intent to Enroll in the Choice District (Choice districts send copy of each student's Intent form to their resident district)	Choice District	Resident District	1/12/2026
NJDOE data collection: FY2026 Choice Enrollment Data Submission	Choice District	Department of Education	1/12/2026 through 1/19/2026
Transportation Requests	Choice District	Resident District	3/15/2026
Student Registration with Choice District	Parent/Guardian	Choice District	Determined by Choice District

Late applications

Districts may accept late applications after the **November 24, 2025**, deadline *until October 14 of the enrollment year*, however, no new applicants can be enrolled above the district's approved maximum enrollment (with the exception of students who receive a commissioner approved waiver of the application deadline). Late applicants can be considered for enrollment only *after* those who applied before the deadline.

If, after the NJDOE data submission deadline of Jan. 19, 2026, any accepted choice students decide to drop their acceptance, the district may replace them with students on the waitlist, including students who applied after the application deadline - provided late applicants are considered *after* those who applied before the deadline.

After the FY2027 Choice Enrollment Data Submission deadline, no additional choice seats can be added, with the following exception: Districts that accept a student with a NJDOE-approved waiver of the application deadline may enroll the student at any time and *may exceed the district's approved enrollment maximum*. A student who is granted a waiver will be given priority over any waitlisted students. Parents can request a waiver form by emailing [the Choice Program Office](#).

Tier 1 and 2 Definitions

Tier 1 students include the following applicants:

- Students who are enrolled in a NJ public school in their resident school district during the time of application and for the entire year immediately preceding enrollment in a choice district
- A student who moved during the school year and attended their resident district schools in both locations
- Students who attend a choice district that terminates before 12th grade and have reached the final grade
- Charter school students
- To qualify as Tier 1 for preschool or kindergarten, a student must be attending their resident district preschool, or a student has a sibling attending the choice district in the current year and the sibling will continue to be enrolled in the following year.

Choice districts must first fill their available seats with Tier 1 students. If the number of Tier 1 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a lottery to randomly select students.

Tier 2 students include NJ residents who have **not** attended their resident public school for the entire year immediately prior to enrollment in the desired choice district and do **not** otherwise meet the requirements for Tier 1. This would include students who have been attending public school outside their districts of residence or private school. Tier 2 students also include students applying for preschool or kindergarten who are **not** attending their resident district preschool and do not have a sibling attending the choice district in the current year.

Choice districts are not obligated to accept Tier 2 students. If a choice district accepts Tier 2 applicants, they may do so only after the qualified Tier 1 applicants have been accepted. If the number of Tier 2 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a Tier 2 lottery to select students.