



LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Fast Facts

How are Students assigned?

Each student in the Leon County schools district is initially assigned, or zoned, by their home address. If a family wants their student to attend a different school than their home zone school, they may apply through School Choice.

What is School Choice?

School Choice is the annual period where a parent/legal guardian can request to reenroll their student(s) in any public school that has not reached capacity for the next school year. If no seats are available at the requested school(s), the application will automatically be included in a lottery.

Once the School Choice deadline has passed, and applications have been sorted into classification groups, the School Choice office will review all fully completed applications to ensure that the information is accurate and that the school(s) listed in the application have available capacity.

Approved applicants will be notified in their FOCUS Parent Portal account. If there is a Pending Acceptance, the approval must be accepted by April 14, 2023. New students must register with the LCS Office of Admissions on or before June 1, 2023. Failure to accept the approval or register by the deadline indicated in the notification will result in automatic cancellation of application approval.

How are Students Selected?

After the close of the School Choice application period, the District will conduct a lottery. The Lottery is not first-come-first served — it is based on a random selection process. A lottery will not be required in the event of fewer applicants than available seats.

How to Apply for School Choice?

The School Choice application is only available in the FOCUS Parent Portal account, and can be completed and submitted in the portal. A parent can make changes to their submitted application until 5 p.m., March 1, 2023. Visit the Office of Admissions website at leonschools.net/officeofadmissions for FOCUS Parent Portal questions, or to create an account.



Magnet Program Schools

What is a Magnet Program School?

A public school offering programs that are not available at all schools. Leon County Schools has many magnet program options. A parent can apply for up to three programs.

LCS Board Approved Magnet Programs

(Visit each school's webpage for more magnet program information)

Amos P. Godby High School (Five Academies)
www.leonschools.net/godby

Hartsfield Magnet School for International Studies
www.leonschools.net/hartsfield

Augusta Raa Middle School (Arts)
www.leonschools.net/raa

Elizabeth Cobb Middle School (Math & Science)
www.leonschools.net/cobb

Fairview Middle School (Pre-IB*)
www.leonschools.net/fairview

James S. Rickards High School (IB*)
www.leonschools.net/rickards

R. Frank Nims Middle School (Law Academy)
www.leonschools.net/nims

*International Baccalaureate Program

School Choice Key Dates:

Opens:

January 4, 2023

Closes:

March 1, 2023

Contact:

schoolchoice@leonschools.net

Frequently Asked Questions



Q. Do I need to re-apply each year?

No, once approved you are approved until you are ready to move to the next level (meaning Elementary to Middle or Middle to High).

Q. Can I apply for more than one school?

Yes, you may apply for up to 3 schools and you will be able to designate them by priority order.

Q. Can I change my priority order after I have submitted?

Yes, you may go in and make changes to saved and submitted applications any time until the March 1 deadline.

Q. I am a Leon County Schools employee. Do I still have to apply?

Yes

Q. I already have a child in a Leon County School and I want my other child to attend also. Do I have to apply for the sibling?

Yes, apply under "Sibling Support". Remember that the sibling must be attending the same school during the same year as the applicant.

Q. Can I apply for a school that is over capacity?

Once a year during the school choice window (January – March 1) everyone can apply for any school, regardless of the capacity. Schools that receive more applications than available seats will be processed by a lottery.

Q. How do I know that my application was submitted correctly?

You will receive an email confirmation response upon submitting your application.

Q. When will I find out if I'm approved for school choice?

You will be notified in your parent portal account by **March 30, 2023.**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- NO RUSH! It is not first come, first serve.
- New students who are not enrolled in Leon County Schools will have to be registered (individually) through the LCS Office of Administration first, and then a School Choice application will need to be done. This includes rising kindergarten students.
[www.leonschools.net/officeofadmissions.](http://www.leonschools.net/officeofadmissions)
- You will be notified in your Focus Parent Portal of the outcome of your application.

Q. How will I know if I am approved?

You will need to log in to your Focus Parent Portal account for the results. Applications won't begin processing until the March 1 deadline.

Q. Can I get transportation?

No. Transportation is the parent or guardian's responsibility unless otherwise stated. (EX. Fairview Middle IB Prep and Rickards High IB)

Q. I am active military. Do I get approved for any school I apply for?

To qualify for Military Preferential Treatment when applying for school choice, as stated in the Leon County School Board Policy as well as Florida State Statute ("Dependent children of active duty military personnel **whose move to our district resulted from military orders**"), the parent or legal guardian must attach the military orders to the School Choice application, or bring into the School Choice office **prior** to the March 1 deadline.

Q. I live just above the Georgia state line and work in Tallahassee. Can I apply?

No. You may only apply if you live in Florida.

Q. Can I apply for a hardship?

No. Hardships are for the current school year only.