

Elementary Central Online Application Process

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/ Guardians/ Caregivers

Why a central online application form?

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is committed to ensuring consistency of the application process for its Elementary Alternative Schools. Having a central online application form increases equity of access for all students and removes potential barriers.

Applying to a school through the Elementary Alternative Schools Central Application Process does **not** guarantee admission.

Who can fill out the Elementary Alternative Schools' online application?

Applications to an Elementary Alternative School are completed by the parent/legal guardian/caregiver through the online application.

How do I know if there are seats available for the grade I am applying for?

- Seats are generally available in the entry grades of each school (i.e., Junior Kindergarten (JK) and Grade 7).
- There are very limited seats available in other grades. If there are available seats in the non-entry grades, applicants will be entered into the Random Selection Process. If there are no seats available, applicants will be notified by email prior to the Random Selection Process; applicants will not be able to apply to any additional schools.

Is there anything I should do before I apply for my child to attend an Elementary Alternative School?

The TDSB has a wide range of [Elementary Alternative Schools](#) available to students. Families are encouraged to research schools and programs to learn about the educational philosophy and distinct pedagogy of each school before completing the online application.

Elementary Alternative Schools will hold information sessions or open houses for students and parents/guardians/caregivers from late November to mid January. Visit the [Elementary School Open Houses and Information Nights](#) webpage for details about the dates and times. If a school is not hosting an open house or information session, please contact the school directly for information about the Elementary Alternative School.

How many schools can I apply for?

Applicants can apply for up to two (2) schools: a PRIMARY school choice and an ALTERNATE school choice. The Alternate choice is optional. A complete list of elementary alternative schools is available on the TDSB's [Alternative Schools webpage](#).

If you select an Alternate school choice, it will be considered **after** all Primary school choice applications have been considered in accordance with our priorities (refer to the question *What are the Admissions Priorities?*).

Applicants from outside the TDSB, except for City of Toronto JK applicants, will be considered after all TDSB applicants have been considered for their Primary and Alternate school choices.

What if I don't have access to a computer or have difficulty with the form?

Parents/legal guardians/caregivers who require assistance with the application process can contact their local school.

I have a child already attending an Elementary Alternative School. Is their sibling able to get a spot?

Applicants who reside in the City of Toronto will be prioritized when the applicant has a sibling who will remain at the selected Elementary Alternative School for the upcoming school year, provided there is space available. **To be eligible for this priority, the selected Elementary Alternative School must be selected as the PRIMARY choice.**

Applicants with a sibling remaining at the selected Elementary Alternative School for the upcoming school year will be admitted prior to the selection of other applicants and after the placement of students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis, and Inuit and based on available space.

I have twins and want them in the same Elementary Alternative School. How can I ensure they are in the same school?

- An Elementary Alternative School Admissions application form must be submitted for each child in your family, including twins, triplets, etc. wishing to attend an Elementary Alternative School. You will have an opportunity to indicate if there are twins/multiple siblings applying for entry to the same school in the same grade. Once you have successfully submitted one application, you will have the opportunity to begin another for another child from the "Submission Confirmation" page.
- Should a twin, triple, etc. application be selected, both/all applicants will be seated in the class if space is available.
- If space is not available to seat both twins or all the multiples (e.g., it is the last available seat in the class), the system will randomly select one sibling(s) to be seated. The other sibling(s) will be placed first on the waitlist.

- If applicants choose to have twins or multiples apply separately (i.e., not indicating that the applicant is a twin, triple, etc.), individual applications will be submitted for each child, and the regular Random Selection Process rules will apply. In other words, if one child is chosen, the twin/multiple(s) is not automatically granted acceptance or waitlisted by virtue of being a twin/multiple.

What are the Admissions Priorities?

Link to website

What is the Random Selection Process?

Random selection refers to a process/program that is used to electronically select applicants for a placement in an Elementary Alternative School and grade.

A random selection process will be implemented for the placement of all applicants either on the seat offer list or wait list.

How does the Random Selection Process work?

Scenario 1: Applicant **only** applies to their Primary school choice and receives an offer – what happens?

- Should the applicant receive an offer for their Primary school choice, the family can accept the offer. If the applicant decides to decline the offer to the Primary school choice, then they will attend their designated school by address, and no other offer to an Elementary Alternative School will be provided to the applicant.

Scenario 2: Applicant **only** applies to a Primary school choice and does not receive an offer – what happens?

- Should the applicant not select an Alternate school choice and does not receive an offer for their Primary school choice, they will be placed on the waitlist for their Primary school choice:
 - If a **seat becomes available** in the Primary school choice, the family will be offered a seat. The family can accept the offer. If the applicant decides to decline the offer to their Primary school choice, then they will attend their designated school by address, and no other offer to an Elementary Alternative School will be provided to the applicant.
 - If a **seat does not become available** at the completion of the placement process, the applicant is removed from the waitlist. The applicant will attend their designated school by address, and no other offer to an Elementary Alternative School will be provided to the applicant.

Scenario 3: Applicant applies to their Primary and Alternate school choices. Applicant receives an offer to their Primary school choice – what happens to the Alternate school choice?

- Should the applicant receive an offer for their Primary school choice, the system will automatically remove the applicant from their Alternate choice. The family can accept the offer. If the applicant decides to decline the offer to the Primary school choice, then they will attend their designated school by address, and no other offer to an Elementary Alternative School will be provided to the applicant.

Scenario 4: Applicant receives an offer to their Alternate school choice and **accepts** the Alternate school choice offer – what happens to the Primary school choice?

- Should the applicant receive an offer for their Alternate school choice, the family can **accept** the offer. If they do, they will remain on the waitlist for their Primary school choice. If a seat becomes available in the Primary school choice, the family will be offered a seat in the Primary school choice and removed from the Alternate school choice. The applicant can then accept the offer to the Primary school choice. If the applicant decides to decline the offer to the Primary school choice, then they will attend their designated school by address, and no other offer to an Elementary Alternative School will be provided to the applicant.

Scenario 5: Applicant receives an offer to their Alternate school choice and **declines** the Alternate school choice offer – what happens to the Primary school choice?

- Should the applicant receive an offer for their Alternate school choice, the family can **decline** the offer. If they do, they will remain on the waitlist for their Primary school choice. If a seat becomes available in the Primary school choice, the family will be offered a seat. The applicant can then accept the offer to the Primary school choice. If the applicant decides to also decline the offer to the Primary school choice, then they will attend their designated school by address, and no other offer to an Elementary Alternative School will be provided to the applicant.

Scenario 6: Applicant receives an offer to their Alternate school choice and accepts the Alternate school choice offer and wants to be removed from their Primary school choice.

- Should the applicant receive an offer for their Alternate school choice, the family can accept the offer. If they do, they will remain on the waitlist for their Primary school choice. If the family wishes to be removed from their Primary school choice, they will need to promptly email EAS.Application@tdsb.on.ca and ask to be removed from their Primary school choice. Otherwise, if a seat becomes available in the Primary school choice, the family will be offered a seat in the Primary school choice and removed from the Alternate school choice.

How are applicants informed if they are selected or not?

Applicants will be informed by email of acceptance or non-acceptance after the random selection process takes place. **You will receive an email confirmation from noreplyregistration@powerschool.com.**

Please check to ensure that you receive this email confirmation; check your spam and junk email. If you do not receive the email confirmation, please contact your current TDSB school. Non-TDSB applicants should contact EAS.Application@tdsb.on.ca.

Is there a waitlist?

A waitlist is generated by the random selection process. When necessary, the waitlist will be accessed to place applicants in available spaces.

Applicants still on the waitlist after round 2 note that **all waitlists have expired, and no further offers will be made.**

What are the timelines to apply to an Elementary Alternative School for September 2025 admission?

The application and placement process for September 2025 has concluded.

The waitlists have expired, and no further offers will be made.

The application process for September 2026 will open in January 2026.

How will I know the status of my child's application?

The Random Selection Process for Elementary Alternative Schools will occur centrally. Please do not contact schools directly for selection results. There will be two rounds of communications made in February 2025 as follows:

The application and placement process for September 2025 has concluded.

The waitlists have expired, and no further offers will be made.

The application process for September 2026 will open in January 2026.

After the Random Selection Process

What should I do if I receive an offer through Out of Area Admissions or have already accepted a seat in a Central Student Interest Program and I am also offered a seat through the Elementary Alternative School Admissions? If you wish to remain in the Central Student Interest Program or want to accept the Out of Area Admissions, you **MUST** decline the Elementary Alternative Schools Admissions offer of acceptance and your seat will be offered to another student on the waitlist.

If you want to accept the Elementary Alternative Schools Admissions offer, you must notify OOA@tdsb.on.ca and you will be forfeiting your place in the Central Student Interest Program and/or Out of Area Admissions.

What if I accept an offer now and then change my mind?

If you accepted an Elementary Alternative School Admissions offer and change your mind, please email us at EAS.Application@tdsb.on.ca before February 27, 2025, so that a seat can be offered to another student.

My child is not a TDSB student but has accepted an offer to an Elementary Alternative School. How do they register?

A unique link to a registration package for the Elementary Alternative School will be sent to your email address starting in mid-February. Please complete and submit the registration package and contact the school to arrange an appointment where you will need to provide the necessary documentation. Registrations must be completed before noon on March 21, 2025.

My child is a TDSB student and has accepted an offer for Elementary Alternative Schools Admissions. What happens next?

Please connect with your current school to ensure that your child is transferred to your new school.

I am having difficulty accepting or declining the offer. What should I do?

Please contact EAS.Application@tdsb.on.ca and let us know what you need help with. A staff member will be happy to assist you.

I applied for my child to attend Junior Kindergarten at an Elementary Alternative School and we did not receive a seat. What should we do?

You are encouraged to visit your designated school by primary home address and register for the 2025-26 school year.

What if I have questions not covered in this document?

You can send your questions to EAS.Application@tdsb.on.ca.

Questions from the Webinars (November 26, 2024)**Does primary school choice refer to the address matching the school or first choice of alternative schools?**

Primary school choice refers to the applicant's first choice for an Elementary Alternative school they would like to attend and is not linked to the applicant's primary home address.

Does the random selection occur electronically or manually? What information does the admission team see?

The random selection process occurs electronically. The Elementary Alternative Schools Admissions Team can see information required to determine the priority and place the applicants (e.g., information collected on the application, where the applicant is placed, etc.).

What happens if you are also part of the French Immersion application process? Can you work through scenarios (i.e., if you accept an alternative school offer, what happens to the French Immersion offer)?

Families can apply to an Elementary Alternative School, an Out-of-Area Admissions school and also apply for French Immersion. **Applicants may only have one seat in one program.** If someone is seated in an Out-of-Area Admission school or French Immersion program, and is then offered a seat in an Elementary Alternative School, they can accept the EAS seat, but they must give up the Out-of-Area Admissions or French Immersions seat immediately.

There may be some time after the initial acceptance of placement to change your mind. However, once a student has been “made active” at their new alternative school, the return to a French Immersion program in a school cannot be guaranteed.

Once a student leaves the French Immersion program, consideration for readmission is subject to the following parameters: **available space** and **equivalent academic background in French**. Equivalency is only a factor if space is determined at the local home school by address. Should space not be available, then admission is not possible. Space is determined by the local school Principal.

After a student is done attending the alt school and goes to high school, will that student go to high school with completely new students, who might not have attended the junior alt school?

Students from an Elementary Alternative School will not all move together to the same secondary school.

How will you verify self-identified ethnic background in the application?

We do not verify how a child or family self-identifies.

Are Sports and Wellness schools considered Alternative Schools? Or is there a different application process for them?

Sports and Wellness schools are not considered Elementary Alternative Schools. They are local schools with a focus on Sports/Health and Wellness. If the Sports and Wellness school is not your designated school by home address, you would need to apply to attend through the Out-of-Area Admissions process. Information about the Elementary Out-of-Area application process can be found [here](#).

My child's school only goes to grade 6. Should I register my child for grade 7 at my local feeder school as well as my first choice of alternative school and my alternate choice of alternative school?

You should register your child at your designated school by primary home address as there are no guarantees that your child will receive an offer. If you do receive an offer and accept the offer, you will need to notify the designated school by primary home address.

Why is there no waitlist maintained after February 27? Families might choose to no longer wish to attend, or might move. Why can't their spot be filled?

The school staffing process for the following year begins at the start of March. At this time, school enrollments for the upcoming year need to stay as constant as possible. After this date, students are not placed in Elementary Alternative Schools, Central Student Interest Programs, or Out-of-Area Admission.

Could you please define the "Middle Eastern" ethno-racial group?

A variety of countries make up the Middle East. Families from these countries may identify as Middle Eastern.

Regarding applying at Grade 7, if we are interested in either an alternative or non-catchment area school, which do we select as primary and secondary? (i.e., We do not wish to attend our default area school).

There is an application process for the Elementary Alternative Schools and one for Out-of-Area Admissions. Information about the Elementary Out of Area Admissions can be found [here](#).

If my child is currently in French immersion grade 6, and is not accepted into an alternative school, do they still have the option to continue at their designated French immersion school?

Yes, students who are not accepted into the Grade 7 Elementary Alternative School may continue in their designated French Immersion pathway.

How are siblings (JK and Grade 2) affected by the application process? Is it possible that one can get accepted and the other does not? Or are their applications considered jointly?

Applications for siblings in different grades applying to the same Elementary Alternative School will be treated independently and it is possible for one child to receive an offer

and be seated while the other doesn't receive any offer and is not seated. Not all grades have available seats.

If you also want to apply to a regular out of area school, how will that application interact with alternative applications? Are they the same application?

They are not the same application. Information about the Elementary Out of Area application process can be found [here](#).

If you want to accept the Out of Area Admission offer, you **MUST** decline the Elementary Alternative Schools Admission offer of acceptance and your seat will be offered to another student on the waitlist.

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Does the applicant's address or report card matter during the selection process?

The non TDSB applicant's primary home address does matter. Applicants living in the M postal code area will be identified as Priority 5 and applicants living outside the M postal code will be identified as Priority 6. Please review the [Admission Priorities web page](#) for complete information. Report card information is not required for the application and will not have any effect during the application process.