

**ADMISSION POLICY
FOR
CAREER/ VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

I. INTRODUCTION

An admission process is necessary for career/vocational programs in which there are more applicants than openings. A process is necessary to determine which applicants may most benefit from such educational opportunities. All applicants to the vocational technical education programs for grades nine through twelve at Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School will be evaluated using the selection criteria contained in this Admission Policy. The Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee approved this policy on October 13 2009.

II. EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School admits students and makes available to them its advantages, privileges and courses of study without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, immigration or citizenship, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homeless status.

For students with limited English proficiency, a qualified staff member from Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District will assist the applicant in completing the necessary forms and assist by interpreting during the entire application process and admission process upon request of the applicant.

Students who are disabled may voluntarily self-identify for the purpose of requesting reasonable accommodations. The District will provide for reasonable accommodation to assist the applicant during the entire application and admission process upon the request of the applicant.

Information on limited English proficiency and/or disability submitted voluntarily by the applicant, for the purpose of receiving assistance and accommodations during the entire application and admission process, will not affect the applicant's admission to the career/vocational technical education program.

The Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee recognizes and respects the right of parents or guardians to educate their child(ren) at home. The School Committee appreciates the personal and cultural uniqueness of each family and desires to ensure that the process by which school officials approve and review home education programs is both lawful and equitable. Therefore, the School Committee establishes this home education policy. This policy which provides the necessary proposal procedures and mandatory components can be requested.

For homeless students, the district's homeless liaison will work with homeless students and their families to assist in the application process.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Any ninth, tenth or eleventh grade student who is a student in Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School is eligible to apply for fall admission or admission during the school year subject to the availability of openings to the career/vocational technical education programs at Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School. Students may only be admitted to Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School if they have been promoted to the grade they are seeking to enter, so students should be aware that their admission is conditional.

Resident students will be evaluated using the selection criteria contained in this Admission Policy. Priority for admission is given to Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District residents. Students who are not residents of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District are eligible to apply for admission to Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District. Residents of Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District who meet the minimum admission requirements will be admitted before any non-resident students. Non-resident students will be evaluated using the selection criteria contained in this Admission Policy. Students and families can find more information online at: [CTE Nonresident Student Tuition Program](#).

Transfer students (i.e. students already participating in state-designated CTE programs at another school) may apply for admission to Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School. Transfer students already participating in state-designated Chapter 74 CTE programs at another school may apply for admission at any time, and will be evaluated using the selection criteria contained in this Admission Policy.

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School participates in the inter-district school choice program, which allows parents/guardians to send their children to schools in communities other than the city or town in which they reside. Students applying to Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School under the school choice program should contact the Superintendent's Office at bruney@drregional.org with any questions.

Students who are home schooled will be evaluated during Exploratory using the selection criteria in this Admission Policy. Priority for admission is given to Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District residents. Students who are non-resident school choice students of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District are eligible to apply for fall admission or admission during the school year provided they expect to be promoted to the grade they seek to enter by their current school. Nonresident students will be evaluated using the selection criteria contained in this Admission Policy. (School Committee Home Schooling Policy IHBG).

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School is a public school located in N. Dighton, Massachusetts. Dighton-Rehoboth Regional is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Dighton-Rehoboth Regional is committed to providing quality career/vocational technical education programs.

It is the responsibility of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional, Career and Technical Education Director to supervise the administration of the policies and procedures required to admit and enroll applicants in conformity with this Admission Policy.

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School has an Admission Committee appointed by the Principal. The committee consists of a member of the Administration, Guidance, Special Needs, Career and Technical Education and Academic Departments. Responsibilities of the Admissions Committee include:

- A. Determination of standards for admission.
- B. Development and implementation of admission procedures.
- C. Processing of applications.
- D. Ranking of students.
- E. Acceptance of students according to the procedure and criteria in the admission policy.
- F. Establishment and maintenance of a waiting list of acceptable candidates.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Career/Vocational Technical Education Director is responsible for disseminating information about Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School's career/vocational technical education programs through local school assemblies, district website and press releases, and for collecting applications from students.

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School participates in the School Choice Program (School Committee Policy JFBB).

V. RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School is committed to informing all eligible students and families about its programs. Outreach may include methods such as mailings, information sessions, open houses, school visits, and online materials. Materials are made available in English and the primary languages of students' homes, as needed.

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School will hold at least two in-person information sessions and at least two virtual information sessions each school year. It is required for applications for

admission to contain an indication of student awareness in career technical education. Student applicants must be able to demonstrate their awareness by any of the following:

1. Attendance at an open house or in-person or virtual student information session.
2. Participation in a tour of a career technical education school or program.
3. Completion of a video module created by Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School regarding career technical education.

Student applicants should plan to attend an Open House or participate in a tour at Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School to satisfy the admissions element of student awareness. Private tours are available per requests. If the time slot for a tour occurs during the applicant's school day, the Admissions Office will provide confirmation to the applicant's current school that such tours may not be counted as unexcused absences by sending districts.

VI. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are made available by November 1 each year. The application deadline is no earlier than January 1 and no later than March 1 and will be set and published annually. Completed applications submitted by the deadline are included in the admissions lottery. Late applications are considered if additional seats become available, consistent with published policy.

VII. ADMISSIONS LOTTERY

Beginning with the 2025-2026 admissions cycle for Fall 2026 entry, if there are more CTE applicants than available seats, students are admitted through a lottery system. The lottery is conducted publicly, with at least one week's public notice. Lotteries may be conducted electronically, provided the method is transparent, fair, and random. The lottery will admit resident students before admitting any non-residents.

A. WEIGHTED CRITERIA

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School may include approved criteria in a weighted lottery (not a scoring system).

Students who meet one or more criteria receive additional lottery weight:

1. Attendance: Fewer than 27 unexcused, full-day absences in the 270 school days prior to application.
2. Discipline: No suspensions/expulsions under M.G.L. c. 71 §§ 37H or 37H1/2 related to a felony adjudication or admission of guilt within the 270 school days prior to application.
3. Student Interest: Demonstrated through a non-evaluative interview, personal essay, audio/video presentation, or letter of recommendation.

All students are entered into the lottery; criteria may only increase a student's chance of selection, not eliminate them.

VIII. NOTIFICATION AND ENROLLMENT

Families are notified in writing or email of admissions decisions. Accepted students must confirm their intention to enroll by the deadline stated in their acceptance letter. Students who decline or do not respond by the deadline forfeit their seat, which will be redistributed.

IX. WAITLIST AND PROCEDURES

A waitlist is maintained for one school year for applicants not admitted through the initial lottery. Students on the waitlist may be offered admission if seats become available, in the order determined by the lottery.

X. TRANSFERS

Transfer students from state-designated CTE programs may apply for admission and will be subject to the same admission standards as other applicants. Transfer students may apply anytime.

XI. NON-RESIDENT APPLICATIONS

Non-resident school choice students are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted by March 15 of the preceding school year, and will be subject to the admissions criteria of this policy. Non-resident students must submit a Tuition Application to their district of residence no later than April 1 of the preceding school year.

If a student moves to a non-resident district after April 1, the student shall submit a new Tuition Application to their district of residence as soon as practicable. Upon receipt of the application, the superintendent in the district of residence must either approve or disapprove the application and submit it to the receiving school and the non-resident student's parent/guardian within 10 school days of receipt. If the application is disapproved, the reason for disapproval must be clearly stated. The non-resident student's parent or guardian may request that DESE review the disapproval. The request for a review and any supporting documentation shall be submitted in writing to DESE no later than May 1, or in the event of a student move after April 1, within 14 school days of the application's disapproval. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final. In making the decision, the Commissioner shall take into consideration the following:

- a. The availability of a comparable program that is closer in proximity to the non-resident student's residence.
- b. Whether the cost of providing transportation to the non-resident student would exceed the resident district's prior-year average non-resident transportation cost.
- c. The relative burdens on the student and their family, and the district of residence.

Tuition for non-resident students who have been accepted will be paid by the district of residence at a rate set by DESE.

The District will notify a non-resident student in writing that admission is program specific and that a change in program by a non-resident student will require the submission of a new state-designated Tuition Application. The non-resident student is entitled to the same rights and privileges of students who reside in the receiving school district, including the right to remain in the receiving school until completion of their secondary program, unless the student changes their program or moves out of their district of residence. If the non-resident student requires additional time to complete the program and a resident student would have been offered the right to continue until completion at the expense of member districts, the city or town of residence must continue to pay tuition for the additional time. If a non-resident student leaves the program but returns within one year, the student shall be entitled to be reinstated if that privilege would have been extended to a resident student. Schools must pro-rate the tuition if the student attends for less than a full year.

XII. APPEALS

Applicants who are denied admission may appeal in writing to the Superintendent or designee. Appeals must specify the grounds for reconsideration. The Superintendent or designee will review the appeal, document the basis for the decision, and notify the family in writing. Documentation is maintained and made available to the DESE or families upon request.

XIII. DATA AND REPORTING

DRRHS maintains records of all applicants, admissions decisions, lottery results, waitlists, and any weighted criteria used. These records support annual review and compliance monitoring and are provided to the DESE upon request.

XIV. ANNUAL REVIEW AND PUBLICATION

This policy is reviewed annually by the School Committee and submitted to the DESE by November 1, if revised. The Superintendent will submit an annual attestation to DESE that this policy complies with federal and state law, including anti-discrimination provisions. The policy is published in the Program of Studies, posted on the school website, and provided to applicants and families. Admissions materials are distributed in English and the primary language of the home, where applicable.