Elementary Alternative 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 Elementary Alternative Schools.

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/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 must be submitted for each child in your family wishing to attend an Elementary Alternative School. Once you have successfully submitted one application, you will have the opportunity to begin another application for a different child from the "Submission Confirmation" page.
- In the case of twins/multiples applying to the same school and grade, you will have an opportunity to include all the children in the same application.

- Should the application for a twin/multiples 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?

Please visit the Elementary Schools Admission Priorities webpage for complete information regarding the admissions priorities.

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

The primary home address for non-TDSB applicants 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 Elementary Schools Admission Priorities webpage for complete information. Report card information is not required for the application and will not have any effect during the application process.

What is the Random Selection Process?

The Random Selection Process refers to an electronic process/program that is used to place applicants in an Elementary Alternative School and grade (where seats are available).

A Random Selection Process will be implemented for the placement of all applicants either on the seat offer list or wait list.

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

- You can accept the offer, or
- You can decline the offer. Your child will attend their designated school (based on your home address), and no further offers for an Elementary Alternative School will be made.

Scenario 2: Applicant applies **only** to their Primary school choice and **does not** receive an offer

- Your child will be placed on the waitlist for the Primary school choice.

- **If a seat becomes available**, you will receive an offer. You can accept the offer, or if you decline, your child will attend their designated school by address.
- **If no seat becomes available** by the end of the process, your child will be removed from the waitlist and will attend their designated school by address.

Scenario 3: Applicant applies to both Primary and Alternate school choices, and receives an offer to their Primary school choice

- The system will automatically remove your child from the Alternate school choice list.
- You can accept the Primary school offer. If you decline, your child will attend their designated school by address, and no further offers will be made for an Elementary Alternative School.

Scenario 4: Applicant receives an offer to their Alternate school choice and accepts the offer

- You can accept the offer, and your child will remain on the **waitlist** for their Primary school choice.
- **If a seat becomes available at the Primary school choice**, you will be offered a seat there and automatically removed from the Alternate school list.
- If you decline the offer to the Primary school choice, your child will attend their designated school (based on your home address), and no further offers for an Elementary Alternative School will be made.

Scenario 5: Applicant receives an offer to their Alternate school choice and declines the offer

- Your child will stay on the waitlist for the Primary school choice.
- **If a seat becomes available at the Primary school**, you will be offered a seat there. You can accept it or decline.
- **If you decline the Primary school offer**: Your child will attend their designated school by address and no further offers will be made for an Elementary Alternative School.

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

- Your child will remain on the waitlist for the Primary school choice.
- **If you wish to be removed from the Primary school choice waitlist**, please email EAS.Application@tdsb.on.ca right away to request removal.

- **If you do not request removal and a seat becomes available at the Primary school**, your child will be moved to the Primary school choice and removed from the Alternate school list.

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 your spam and junk email to ensure that you receive this email confirmation. 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 may be accessed to place applicants in available spaces.

Waitlists will expire after the final round in mid-June. N**o further offers will be made; there are no exceptions or appeals.**

What are the timelines to apply to an Elementary Alternative School for September 2027 admission?

The Elementary Alternative School Online Application form will be available on Monday, January 4, 2027.

The Elementary Alternative School Online Application form will close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2027. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

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 2026 and final round in mid-June as follows:

- **Thursday, February 25, 2027** - Placement Offers 1, will be sent at the end of the school day.
- **Tuesday, March 2, 2027** - Offers must be accepted or declined by 4:00 pm. If you do not accept or decline the offer of placement on or before the March 2 deadline, the offer will be automatically declined. The student will attend their designated school by home address.
- **Wednesday, March 3, 2027** - Placement Offers 2, will be made where seats are available and will be sent at the end of the school day.

- **Monday, March 8, 2027** - Offers must be accepted or declined by 4:00 pm. If you do not accept or decline the offer of placement on or before the March 8 deadline, the offer will be automatically declined. The student will attend their designated school by home address.

Final Offers

- **Mid to Late May - Date TBC** – Final Placement Offers will **only** be made where seats are available. Emails will be sent at the end of the school day and **only** to families whose child receives a seat. **No additional offers will be made after this date.**
- **Mid to Late May - Date TBC** – **Offers must be accepted or declined by 4:00 pm**. If you do not accept or decline the offer of placement on or before the deadline, the offer will be automatically declined. The student will attend their designated school by home address.

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

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 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 (EAS), 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.

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.

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.

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 27, 2026.

My child is a TDSB student and has accepted an offer for Elementary Alternative Schools Admissions. What happens next?
Your child's school will arrange to have your child transferred to your new school for September. You can contact your child's 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 as soon as possible 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 2026-27 school year.

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

You are encouraged to register your child at your designated school 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.

Can I appeal the outcome of the Elementary Alternative School Admissions application?

There is no appeal process for Elementary Alternative Schools placements.

What if I have questions not covered in this document?

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