

## YOUR CHILD WAS ACCEPTED ...

### My child was accepted to our first choice! What do I need to do now?

For offers made between March 27 and April 7, you have until April 10, 2015, to accept the seat in your [parent dashboard](#) AND physically deliver a copy of the [entrance agreement](#) and proof of residence to the school. If your child is entering Pre-K or kindergarten, you will also need to provide proof of your child's age. Failure to complete both steps by April 10, 2015, may result in the loss of the offer. If you were accepted to any other schools, seats at those schools will automatically be declined. Please be very careful when accepting the seat, as any offers that are automatically declined cannot be reinstated.

### My child was accepted to a school but placed on a wait list for our first choice. Can I accept a seat at the other school while my child is on the wait list for the other?

Yes. You may accept a seat at any school to which you have been accepted and remain on the wait list for another school. If your wait list number comes up and your child is offered a seat, you will have three school days from the time of the offer to accept the seat on your [parent dashboard](#) AND physically deliver a copy of the [entrance agreement](#) and proof of residence (also proof of age for Pre-K and kindergarten students) to the school. Failure to complete both steps may result in a loss of the offer. Your seat at the school you previously accepted will then be declined.

### My child was accepted into a Vanguard program pending testing and another school. I don't want to lose the seat at the other school if my child doesn't qualify for the Vanguard school. What should I do?

Until the results of testing have been received you will be unable to accept the offer for this Vanguard Magnet program. However, the offer will remain in place until test results are received. You are allowed to accept any offer to a single non-Vanguard Magnet program without impacting your offer(s) from a Vanguard Magnet program. As soon as you do so, your "accepted" status at all other non-Vanguard schools will automatically change to "declined."

### I have two children who applied to the same magnet schools. One was accepted and the other was placed on the wait list. Will my child get preferential treatment on the wait list?

If two siblings apply to the same program (but do not have another attending sibling), they are treated the same as any other applicant. However, if one of them is applying to the entry grade and the other is offered and accepts a place, the one applying to the entry grade is moved up the wait list and placed immediately below the other siblings.

## YOUR CHILD IS ON A WAIT LIST ...

### My child wasn't accepted to any schools but was placed on a wait list. What do I do now?

If your child's wait list number comes up and you are offered a seat, you will have three school days from the time of the offer to accept the seat on your [parent dashboard](#) AND physically deliver a copy of the [entrance agreement](#) and proof of residence (also proof of age for Pre-K and kindergarten students) to the school. Failure to complete both steps may result in a loss of the offer.

### My child was accepted to a school but placed on a wait list for our first choice. Can I accept a seat at the other school while my child is on the wait list for the other?

Yes. You may accept a seat at any school to which you have been accepted and remain on the wait list for another school. If your wait list number comes up and your child is offered a seat, you will have three school days from the time of the offer to accept the seat on your [parent dashboard](#) AND physically deliver a copy of the [entrance agreement](#) and proof of residence (also proof of age for Pre-K and kindergarten students) to the school. Failure to complete both steps may result in a loss of the offer. Your seat at the school you previously accepted will then be declined.

### One of my children is already in a magnet program, and I applied to have a sibling also placed there. The sibling was placed on the wait list. Will the sibling get priority over other children on the wait list because he/she has a sibling already there?

Yes. It is HISD policy that children who will have siblings also attending the same Magnet program will enjoy limited priority in the application process for "entry grades." Entry grades are usually defined as the lowest grade-level in each program open to enrollment by all students. For elementary programs this usually means kindergarten. Pre-K is not open to all students. However, language and Montessori programs also consider Pre-K an entry grade. For middle schools it is 6th grade and 9th grade for high school programs. K-8 or 6-12 programs would have two entry grades. Up to 25% of available slots will be awarded first to students who will have a sibling attending the same program. If there are more students with siblings than the 25% of spaces allowed, they will be placed at the top of the wait list in the relative order they were selected in the lottery.

### I applied for my child to go to a Vanguard school, and my status is Wait List (Pending Testing). What does that mean?

This status means your child will be on the school's wait list if their test scores qualify them for entrance to the school. If your child's test score does not qualify them for the school, you will be removed from the wait list.

## **YOUR CHILD IS ON A WAIT LIST ... (Continued)**

### **My wait list number has gotten larger. Why?**

Wait lists are fluid. Normally, the only changes on the wait list should be upward moves. However, in the case of a student who may have been lower on the list whose brother or sister is accepted, that child may be moved up the wait list and may skip above your child, causing your child to move down the wait list.

### **My wait list number is three digits. Does my child have any hope of getting into this school?**

A large three-digit wait list number should not necessarily scare you. Some of the most popular programs reach well into their wait list to complete their roster for the year.

## MY CHILD WASN'T ACCEPTED ...

### My child wasn't accepted to any of the schools to which we applied. What are my options?

Remember that your zoned neighborhood school can be a solid alternative and may be an easier and less stressful alternative. On March 27, 2015, we'll also post and regularly update a list of the magnet schools that still have seats available.

### My child was listed as "not qualified." What does that mean?

It means your child did not meet the qualification guidelines for the specific program to which you applied. If you need additional information that pertains to your child's situation, please [contact the school directly](#).

### My child was listed as "out of district." What does that mean?

Your child's application will not be considered until Phase 3 (June 1 – Aug. 14, 2015). Out of district applicants are considered for programs where space is available after all qualified district residents have been served. Certain stand-alone magnet programs also require the payment of tuition for out of district residents. HISD employees who live out of district are considered, for school admission and tuition purposes, as if they were in-district residents.

### My child was listed as "in processing." What does that mean?

It means one of two things. 1) Your application was missing information and therefore we were unable to determine whether you qualified for inclusion in the lottery. If documents were missing, you can upload them or otherwise provide them to the school you were applying to. Once your application is complete it can be considered on a space-available basis. All steps must be completed by Aug. 14, 2015. 2) You were applying to your own zoned school and do not need to apply to the Magnet program for admission. 3.) You live out of district. If complete and qualified, you will be considered after June 1, on a space-available basis.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS ...

### When will magnet notifications be sent to parents?

Everything will appear in your parent dashboard at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2015. We will begin to send out emails at that time (simply notifying parents to look on the [dashboard](#)), but please keep in mind that it will take several hours for our servers to process the volume of emails we have to send out. That Friday we will also send out by US Mail a letter to each child's parents with the status of all applications.

### My child applied to multiple schools. Will I receive a notification from each school?

No. The status of your applications at each school will be addressed in a single email and a single letter sent to your home.

### How long do I have to accept a seat at a school at which my child was accepted?

You have until April 10, 2015, to accept the seat in your [parent dashboard](#) AND physically deliver a copy of the [entrance agreement](#) and proof of residence to the school. If your child is entering Pre-K or kindergarten, you will also need to provide proof of your child's age. Failure to complete both steps by April 10, 2015, may result in the loss of the offer. If you were accepted to any other schools, seats at those schools will automatically be declined. Please be very careful when accepting the seat as any offers that are automatically declined cannot be reinstated.

### I'm having technical problems on the parent dashboard. Who should I contact?

Please contact the Office of School Choice by calling 713-556-6947. Assistance is available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.