

CHOICE PROGRAMS - PRIORITY PREFERENCES

The lottery process is used to ensure that all families have a chance of receiving a “seat” or placement in a Choice Program. The lottery process is automated and applications are submitted electronically. The application period officially opens at the Annual Student Success Expo and STEM Festival held January 5 at the Savannah Mall. Each year, this event “kicks-off” the Choice Program application period. The online application form and instructions will then be available on the district’s website at choice.sccpss.com. Once the application is submitted, an appropriate priority category is applied to all students. Students applying to Choice Programs are eligible to receive Priority Preferences based on the following:

Priority 1 - SCCPSS Full-time Permanent Employee’s Child with Parent working at the Choice Program School

As provided by Georgia law, O.C.G.A. 20-2-293, the children of full-time employees of the SCCPSS (who reside in the state of Georgia) shall be allowed to attend and to be enrolled in the school in which a parent or guardian is a full-time teacher, professional, or other employee.

Priority 2 - Chatham County Residents and SCCPSS Full-time Permanent Employee’s Child

Children of full-time permanent SCCPSS employees, who live in Chatham County, and meet the enrollment criteria for their selected Choice program.

Priority 3 - Pre-K Child (Currently Enrolled at Selected Choice Program School)

Child who is enrolled in Pre-K at the selected Choice Program School for the current school year.

Priority 4 - Siblings

The applicant **must have a sibling who lives in the same household who will be continuing in the selected Choice Program** for the upcoming school year. Eligibility at this level will require the sibling to be actively enrolled in the program for the applied school year. For example, if the Choice is an elementary school and the sibling was in 5th grade for the current school year, the applicant is NOT eligible for this priority. This priority will not apply to schools where admission is determined by ranking (Savannah Arts Academy and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts, Grades 6-8).

Priority 5 - Chatham County Residents

All students who live in Chatham County receive this priority level. The majority of applicants receive this priority level.

Priority 6 - SCCPSS Employee’s Child (Non-Chatham County Residents)

Children of full-time permanent SCCPSS employees, who do not live in Chatham County, but meet the enrollment criteria for the selected Choice Program. These students will be wait-listed after all qualified resident students have been admitted. (See Board Policy Regulation JBCBA-R at www.sccpss.com, Click Board Tab and seek Board Policy Manual)

Priority 7 - Out of County Residents

If the student does not live in Chatham County, he/she will be coded with this priority. The student will also be charged tuition. (See Board Policy: JBCBA and JBCBA-R. Review board policies at www.sccpss.com, Click Board Tab and seek Board Policy Manual)

Note: “Choice Schools/Programs” were formerly known as Specialty Schools/Programs.