Admission to The SEED School of Maryland will be determined by lottery from a pool of students who submit a complete application for admissions and who meet the qualifying factors detailed below. SEED will conduct separate lotteries for boys and girls, in order to enroll a balance of boys and girls. To promote geographic diversity, SEED will set aside one slot in the admissions lottery for each county from which an eligible student applies and two slots for each county with an underrepresented population (defined as 2 students or less) of students already enrolled at SEED.

Meets criteria for "disadvantaged" and "at risk youth" (defined below):

- Residents of Maryland;
- Entering/enrolling into 6th grade in 2018-19 school year;
- No older than 12 years and 7 months as of September 1, 2018.

- Lives in a household that has an income that does not exceed 250% of the Maryland poverty level;

Disadvantaged student is defined as a child who:

- Because of environmental conditions is not achieving at a level that is scholastically up to his/her potential abilities;
- Has to compensate for his/her inability to profit from the normal education program;
- Has the potential to successfully complete a regular educational program leading to graduation from a high school; and
- Because of home and community environment, is subject to language, cultural, and economic disadvantages that make his/her completion of the regular educational program leading to graduation unlikely without special efforts by school authorities to provide stimulation of his/her potential in addition to the efforts involved in providing the regular educational programs. [Md. Educ. Art. §8-101(b)(1).]

At risk student is defined as a student who meets at least two qualifying factors. These factors are:

- The student is eligible for free or reduced price meals;
- The student has a record of suspensions, office referrals, chronic truancy or involvement with the social service system;
- The student has failed to achieve proficient or advanced level on state assessments (MSA) in reading, math or both;
- The student has a disability;
- The family's adjusted gross income is below federally established poverty guidelines;
- The family receives temporary cash assistance under the State Family Investment Program;
- A member of the family has been incarcerated (immediate family or member of the household);
- The head of household is a single parent;
- The head of household is not a custodial parent;
- The student is recommended by a teacher, counselor, social worker or community-based service organization. [Md. Educ. Art. §8-701(b).]