

Environmental Charter School Enrollment FAQ's

1. We submitted an application for our child and he/she was placed on the waiting list. Do we need to submit an application for the following year, if we are interested in ECS for next year or will my child automatically be put on the waiting list again?

You will need to submit an application for the lottery for next year. Our waiting list terminates, or “dissolves,” at the end of each school year, so you will need to reapply each year. Your child will remain on our waiting list for the duration of the school year.

2. How does the lottery work?

At the lottery, one of the following scenarios will occur:

1. If student applications do not exceed the number of available seats in a grade, all applicants will be given a space in the grade, or
2. If student applications exceed the number of available seats in a grade, a
3. lottery will be conducted for that grade. Any students not receiving a space will be placed on the waiting list in the order their names are drawn.

Families are invited to attend the lottery. All families, regardless of attendance at the lottery, will receive notification of their student's lottery results within one week. Attendance at the lottery is not required.

3. What if I don't live in the City of Pittsburgh? Can I still apply to ECS?

Absolutely! However, it's important to know that since our charter is authorized by the Pittsburgh Public Schools, we do offer preference to city residents. Because of this, available spots will go to Pittsburgh Public Schools students before out of district residents.

4. How many spots will be open in the grade I am interested in for next year?

The number of spots available in each grade is subject to change each school year in response to our annual re-enrollment process for current students. The re-enrollment process occurs each year just prior to the lottery and informs the school of information such as families that are moving or students that are transferring to new schools.

5. What is “sibling preference?”

- Students who reside in PPS and who have at least one sibling selected for enrollment in the lottery or currently enrolled in the Charter School (“PPS Sibling Preference”). A sibling shall be defined as one of two or more individuals having a least one common parent/guardian.
- Students who reside out of district and who have at least one sibling selected for enrollment in the lottery or currently enrolled in the Charter School (“Out of District Sibling Preference”). A sibling shall be defined as one of two or more individuals having a least one common parent/guardian.
- In the event that a seat is not available for admission to the grade applied for and there is no space in the grade they should attend, said student will be placed on the waitlist in the next numerical position available. The waitlist does not assure admission.

6. How do I apply?

Applications for will be available online through [SchoolMint](#) or through the SchoolMint app for [Android](#) or [iTunes](#).

7. Can I drop my application off at the school?

No. You must complete the online application. If you do not have access to the internet or do not have a smartphone, please call Christine Adams at 412-247-7970 ext 301. She will be able to assist you with the application and computers are available at both schools.

8. Do I have to be at the lottery to find out if my child was chosen?

No. You do not have to be present at the lottery. You will be notified within one week of the lottery.

9. My child is on the waiting list. What does this mean?

This means that your child’s name will be kept on our list through the end of the upcoming school year. If a student who is offered a spot does not accept enrollment, we will offer the spot to the first person on the waiting list. If a student who is currently enrolled decides to move during the summer or during next school year, we will contact the next student on the waiting list. ECS continues to fill spots throughout the school year.

10. How do I learn more about the school?

We offer two options for families, a school tour and open houses. School tours, which take place during the day, offer prospective families the opportunity to see our unique academic program in action. Families will meet students, faculty, and key administrators; hear about and observe our academic program; and see our warm and inviting school setting. At our Upper School, we encourage students to join their parents on the tour so they have the opportunity to see our academic day in session. At our Lower School, we have found that it is best if the tour is parents only.

Open houses offer prospective families the opportunity to meet faculty and key administrators and have an opportunity to talk in depth with our faculty. A guided tour of the building will be conducted during the open house. We welcome all students to join their parents at our open houses! The Lower School will offer two open houses:

Both events are a wonderful resource for families as they make important decisions about their students' education and future. It is not necessary to attend both events, and we encourage you to choose the option best for your schedule and family.

Please visit our [website to schedule a tour or open house](#).

11. How old does my child have to be to enroll in kindergarten?

All ECS kindergarten students must turn 5 on or before September 1st.