

FAQs on Enrollment

How do I enroll my child in a Massachusetts charter public school?

- You can access each charter public schools' application on their website. You can find a list of schools and their websites [here](#).
- Charter public schools in the city of Boston have a common enrollment application. To enroll your child in a Boston charter public school, please visit applybostoncharters.com to complete an enrollment application.

Does it cost money to attend a Massachusetts Commonwealth charter public school?

As public schools, charter public schools are tuition-free.

When is the deadline to apply to a charter public school?

Charter public school enrollment deadlines vary by each school across the state. To view a specific school's enrollment information, visit that school's website. You can find a list of schools and their websites [here](#).

When will I know if my child received a seat in a charter public school?

Charter public schools accept students by random, public lottery. Please visit each school's website to find out when they will hold their individual lotteries in any given school year. Families will be notified in accordance with the timeline provided in the enrollment policy of each school to which they've applied, whether their child received a seat for the upcoming school year or has been added to their waitlist.

If my child does not receive a seat this year, do I need to fill out the application again?

Yes. Applications need to be submitted on an annual basis, and families seeking a charter public school for their student will need to reapply each year by the stated deadline to be entered into a school's lottery process. Please note that the waitlist does not roll over from year to year.

What are some of the age and other school requirements?

For entry to K1 (pre-kindergarten), prospective students must be age 4 on or before September 1 of the school year. For entry to K2 (kindergarten), students must be age 5 on or before September 1 of the school year. For schools with grade levels other than K1 or K2, you may need to demonstrate completion of the previous grade prior to enrollment, depending on the school. For more information, please refer to the specific enrollment policies of the schools to which you are applying.

Do charter public schools have sibling preference?

Yes, siblings of a student currently enrolled in a charter public school have preference for admission to that specific charter public school only. The word “sibling” refers to persons who have a common parent, either biologically or legally through adoption.

What documents do I need to prove residency? And what if my family is homeless?

Proof of residency must be presented to the charter public school at the time an offer of admission is made. If a school receives false residency information, the application may be deemed invalid. For more information, please refer to the specific enrollment policies of the school(s) to which you are applying.

All students considered to be homeless are able to apply to and enroll in charter public schools in Massachusetts. For the purposes of receiving residential preference for admission, schools should consider all applications from homeless students on a case-by-case basis to determine where they currently or temporarily live. The [McKinney-Vento Act](#) prohibits students who meet the definition of homeless from being barred from enrollment due to lack of required documentation. Homeless students, however, must still provide reasonable proof of residency to receive an admission preference based on where they are temporarily living. What is reasonable proof of the city or town in which a homeless student is temporarily living depends upon the circumstances. For more information, please refer to the specific enrollment policies of the school(s) to which you are applying.