

Admission Process:

Prospective families of The Watershed School will follow a three-step process:

1. During the application process, parents and guardians must attend one orientation meeting to learn about the philosophy, curriculum, and daily operation of the school. In addition, they must observe the school in session. Dates for the orientation meetings and visitation arrangements will be posted on the school's web page which is linked to the School District site at <http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us/>. The orientation and in-school observation should occur before completing the application so that students and their families understand the Watershed School's unique vision and its requirements.
2. Parent(s) or guardian(s) will read, complete and sign The Watershed School Application Form (Appendix 3)
3. Once completed, the application, along with a completed lottery form, will be reviewed by The Watershed Application Committee. If more students apply than can be accommodated, applicants will be drawn by lottery for admission. Lottery drawings will be held on April 15 each year.

Admission Criteria:

The Watershed Charter School is a parent choice school. A student enrolling at The Watershed School must be within the age of five and fourteen. In order to be eligible to apply to attend kindergarten, children must be five years old on or before September 1. Children must be 6 years old on or before September 1 to attend first grade. A copy of the child's birth certificate is required for each pupil entering kindergarten or first grade. All new students must submit proof of immunization before being admitted into school. At least one parent, or legal guardian, must be a resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Selection Process

Enrollment at The Watershed School is voluntary. As per AS 14.03.265 (b) the school shall strive to enroll all eligible students who submit a timely application. In the event of too many eligible applicants, a lottery will be held. The lottery will be held on April 15 of every spring, for enrollment for the following fall, and will be conducted in accord with district policy.

We expect more applicants than The Watershed School has room to enroll. In this case, all students will be enrolled following a lottery process. Lottery drawings will be held on or around April 15 each year. The lottery determines the waiting list for the following school year.

The Watershed School keeps a waiting list of students that have applied, but were unsuccessful in being chosen through the lottery. When there are openings in the school between the annual lotteries, the waiting list is used to fill the vacancies. Wait lists do not

carry over for the next year's lottery. All unsuccessful applicants are welcome to reapply the following year.

In keeping with the Watershed's School philosophy of long-term connection to family, community, and geographical place, in subsequent years all students who have previously attended The Watershed School are automatically re-enrolled in the program. Siblings are admitted as a unit so that families can attend the same school. Families with multiple siblings wishing to attend will fill out a single "family" lottery form with the specified number of grade-level slots requested. Although all new applicants must meet application requirements, future students who already have siblings enrolled in the school are given priority to enroll in the Watershed School, given that space is available at the sibling's grade level. Siblings are defined as permanent, immediate family members.

Although all applicants must meet application requirements, children of staff members and of the Academic Policy Committee are given preference.

In order to maintain balanced grade level classrooms, and to keep classroom enrollment stable, The Watershed School will adjust available enrollment slots to reflect grade level openings as needed.

During the lottery process, or whenever student spots open during the school year, should one gender reach 14 (all classrooms are capped at 22) or more students in an individual classroom, whenever possible, the remaining spots in that classroom shall be filled in such a way to bring gender back in balance.

Once enrolled at the Charter School, parents or guardians will complete an "Intent to Reenroll" form (Appendix 4) for succeeding school years, and are expected to notify the school of any change in plans. If students withdraw from The Watershed School to attend another school, they are required to complete the application and lottery process again before readmission to the school.

Nondiscrimination Disclosure

The Watershed School does not discriminate toward any individual as defined in District Policy 1011 nor does it require any student to attend the program

The Watershed School will not discriminate by race or special needs or other inappropriate criteria. No student shall be denied participation because of a learning disability, handicapping condition, or special need.