

Ascend Leadership Academy Admission and Lottery Policy

Admissions

Ascend Leadership Academy is a tuition-free public school. Any child who is qualified under the laws of North Carolina for admission to a public school is qualified for admission into Ascend Leadership Academy. To qualify to attend a North Carolina public school, a student must be a resident of North Carolina. Ascend Leadership Academy does not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, athletic ability, disability, race, creed, gender, national origin, religion or ancestry.

Ascend Leadership Academy may give enrollment priority under the following circumstances, as stated in G.S. 115C-238.29F(g). The priorities shall be executed in the following order:

1. Children and/or Grandchildren of Ascend Leadership Academy board members and full-time employees are admitted before the public lottery, regardless of impact on the enrollment cap for those grade levels in which they are admitted. Students given this priority must not exceed 15% of ALA's total school enrollment.
2. Siblings of currently enrolled students who were admitted to the charter school in a previous year. For the purposes of this section, the term "siblings" includes any of the following who reside in the same household: half-siblings, step-siblings, and children residing in a family foster home.
3. Siblings of students who have completed the highest grade level offered by that school and who were enrolled in at least four grade levels offered by the charter school or, if less than four grades are offered, in the maximum number of grades offered by the charter school.
4. A student who was enrolled in another charter school in the State in the previous school year, that does not offer the student's next grade level.
5. If siblings apply for admission to ALA and a lottery is needed, ALA will allow the family to enter one surname into the lottery to represent all of the siblings applying at the same time. If that surname of the siblings is selected, then all of the siblings shall be admitted to the extent that space is available and does not exceed the grade level capacity.

Application and Lottery

Ascend Leadership Academy's open enrollment period for new applicants will be for at least 30 consecutive calendar days. Once enrolled, students are not required to enroll in subsequent enrollment periods. In order to properly plan, the school will routinely inquire of parents in early spring through a Letter of Intent to ascertain if students will return to Ascend Leadership

Revised 3/27/19

Revised 12/2/20

Revised 11/30/22

Revised and Approved: 11/21/2024

Revised and Approved: 10/22/2025

Academy the following year. Applications for new students will be made available on the school website. If families do not have access to the internet, paper copies will be provided, or families can call the school for assistance in completing an application for enrollment.

After the open enrollment period, Ascend Leadership Academy shall enroll an eligible student who submits an application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building. If the number of applications exceeds the number of available spaces, a lottery will be held to fill vacant seats for the next school year. ALA's Board of Directors will hire a third-party firm to administer the public lottery to ensure transparency in the lottery process. After seats are filled, the drawing will continue to determine the order of the waiting list. Current year waiting lists dissolve when the next enrollment period begins. Any applicant who knowingly provides incorrect information on the enrollment application will be disqualified from consideration for acceptance to ALA upon discovery. If a student's retention decision at another school is made after the child's name was drawn for enrollment in a specific grade level, the managing director reserves the right to withdraw or uphold acceptance.

Applicants drawn during the application process must reply to accept or decline admission to Ascend Leadership Academy within 48 hours from notification. Should a parent decline the enrollment offer or not respond before the deadline, the school may offer admission to the next name on that specific grade's waiting list. Registration must be completed within five business days from acceptance, or Ascend Leadership Academy reserves the right to revoke the offer of admission and move to the next person on the waitlist.

Applicants who are accepted off the waitlist have 48 hours from notification to accept or decline admission.

Lottery procedures will comply with the North Carolina Open Meetings Law provided in G.S.143-218.10(a). The school will publicize the date, time, and location of the meeting and allow anyone to attend.