



Application Process for Programs of Choice for 2017-18

August 29, 2016

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Langley Schools are proud to offer several Programs of Choice located in various sites throughout the District. Entry into these programs is by application only. These programs include:

- Early French Immersion (Kindergarten – Belmont, James Kennedy)
- Late French Immersion (Grade 6 – Alex Hope, Noel Booth, Betty Gilbert)
- Fine Arts (Kindergarten – Langley Fine Arts School)
- Fundamental (Kindergarten - Coghlan, Langley Fundamental Elementary)
- Montessori (Kindergarten – Uplands)
- U Connect (Kindergarten – Simonds)

At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on December 8, 2015, the Board voted to adopt changes to Policy 5084 (Application to Enter Choice Programs). The significant changes to the policy include:

- Moving to an on-line registration process for entry to a choice program in the following school year;
- Limiting a parent's choice to a maximum of two programs;
- Application 11 months prior to entry point into the program
- Changing the priority ranking for accepting students to a choice program to favor Langley resident students;
- A random draw process for selecting eligible students when there are more applicants than seats for a particular choice program.

The new online application process will be in effect for families wanting to apply for first year entry into any choice program for September 2017. **The application process will be open from Monday, October 3, 2016 and closes at midnight on Friday, October 14, 2016.** Families will need to access the District Website at <https://www.sd35.bc.ca> and select the tab Programs and Initiatives – Choice Programs – Application to Choice Programs to complete the online process.

If your child has a sibling already in the same program, it is important that you indicate this in your application and you will need to provide the sibling's 9 digit P.E.N. (Personal Education Number). If you are unsure of this number, please contact the sibling's school.

By November 15, 2016, all families will receive an email indicating if your child has been accepted into a program of choice. Families will have 7 days to electronically accept or reject an offered seat. After that time, unclaimed seats will be offered to waitlisted applicants. (Please ensure that your computer settings do not block School District 35 emails and check your Spam or Junk folder so that you receive messages from the School District.)

Placement into choice programs will be prioritized in the following manner:

1. Siblings of Langley resident students who are enrolled at the school choice program or in the same District program
2. Langley resident students
3. Siblings of Non-Langley residents students who are enrolled at the school choice program or in the same District program
4. Non-Langley resident students

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available seats, the District will use a random draw process to assign either a seat or a waitlist number. If a seat becomes available and your child is the highest on the waitlist, you will be contacted with an option to accept or reject that seat. Families will have 7 days to respond electronically to an offer.

Please refer to the Regulations to Policy 5084 under the "Board" tab on the District website for a complete understanding of all the changes. <https://www.sd35.bc.ca>

Should you require assistance please contact Office Services at the School Board Office at 604-534-7891.