



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Student Application Timeline for Parents
for Enrollment in a Choice District in the 2026-2027 School Year**

Document Name/Process	From	Received by	Deadline
<u>Student Notification to Resident District of Intent to Participate</u> (Required for <i>all</i> choice applicants)	Parent/Guardian	Resident District	11/24/2025
Student Application to Choice Districts (Request/download application from choice district website and submit to choice district)	Parent/Guardian	Choice District	11/24/2025
Lottery Date Notification to Parents/Guardians	Choice District	Parent/Guardian	12/9/2025
Lottery held (if applicable)	Choice District	N/A	12/11/2025 thru 12/15/2025
Notice of Conditional Acceptance, Rejection or Wait Listing	Choice District	Parent/Guardian	12/19/2025
Student's Notice of Intent to Enroll in the Choice District (Provided by choice district. <i>Submit to only one choice district.</i>)	Parent/Guardian	Choice District	1/8/2026
Student's Registration with Choice District	Parent/Guardian	Choice District	Determined by Choice District

Late Applications

Some districts may accept late applications after the **November 24, 2025**, deadline, however, late applicants will be considered for enrollment only *after* those who applied before the deadline.

If any accepted choice students decide to drop their acceptance before the start of the school year, the district may replace them with students on the waitlist, including students who applied after the deadline--provided late applicants are considered *after* those who applied before the deadline.

Parents must contact the choice district to inquire about whether it accepts late applications.

Exception to Late Application Policy

When extenuating circumstances occur, the Commissioner may grant a waiver of the student application deadline, allowing a student to submit an application and be accepted to a choice program. *Waivers will only be granted by a showing of "good cause" and when a student's educational conditions are such that an immediate transfer is needed.* Waivers will not be granted for convenience reasons such as missing the application deadline. Typically, student enrollment must occur immediately upon approval of the waiver, however each waiver will be considered based on the specific circumstances of the student. *Parents can request a waiver form by emailing [the Choice Program Office](#).*

Middle Township Public Schools

216 S. Main Street

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

**Interdistrict Public School Choice Application for
Enrollment in a Choice District
2026-2027 School Year**

For Office Use Only

On-time application ____ Late application ____

Tier 1 ____ Tier 2 ____

Grade applied for in 2026-27: ____

Enrollment Preferences granted (check those that apply):

____ Sibling in choice district (Sibling grade in 2026-2027: ____)

____ Applicant from a choice district that terminates before grade 12

____ Resident student who moved during school year

Lottery # (if applicable): ____

To be completed by the parent or legal guardian:

Student Information

Name of student applicant: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Student address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip code: _____

Home phone number: _____ Parent's alternate phone: _____

Parent's email: _____

Current School Information (2025-26)

Student's grade level for the 2025-2026 school year: _____

Student's district of residence: _____

School currently attending: _____

- Is this the student's resident public school (includes charter schools)? Yes /No
 - If yes, answer the following questions:
 - Has the student been enrolled since the start of the 2025-2026 school year? Yes / No
 - If the student moved during the school year and *attended the resident public school of their old district of residence*, provide:
 - » Name of previous school district of residence: _____
 - » Name of previous school attended: _____
 - » Date moved from previous school: _____
 - » Date enrolled in current school: _____
- Is this a choice district that terminates before 12th grade? Yes No
 - If yes, answer the following questions:
 - Has the student been enrolled since the start of the 2025-2026 school year? Yes No

Application Information

Grade level to which the student is applying for admission for the 2026-2027 school year: _____

Has the student been referred or is the student in the process of being referred for special education services? Yes/No

If yes, attach any documentation, i.e. IEP (Special Education Plan) or 504 Plan (Accommodation Plan)

NOTE: If, prior to the start of the enrollment year, the student receives an IEP that the choice district cannot implement, acceptance into the program could be revoked.

Does the student have a sibling enrolled in this choice district? Yes /No

Sibling's name: _____ Sibling's grade in 2025-26: _____ Sibling's grade in 2026-27¹: _____

Is the applicant a former resident student who moved *before* the application deadline? Yes /No

Is the applicant a former resident student who moved *after* the application deadline? Yes /No

¹ Choice sibling must continue to be enrolled in the choice district in the choice applicant's first year of enrollment in the choice district.

Interdistrict Public School Choice Application for Enrollment in a Choice District 2026-2027 School Year

Student Enrollment Policies

Tier 1 students include the following applicants:

- Students who are enrolled in a NJ public school in their resident school district during the time of application and for the entire year immediately preceding enrollment in a choice district.
- A student who moved during the school year and attended their resident district schools.
- Students who attend a choice district that terminates before 12th grade and have reached the final grade.
- Charter school students.
- To qualify as Tier 1 for preschool or kindergarten, a student must be attending their resident district preschool, or a student has a sibling attending the choice district in the current year and the sibling will continue to be enrolled in the following year.

Choice districts must first fill their available seats with Tier 1 students. If the number of Tier 1 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a lottery to randomly select students.

Tier 2 students include NJ residents who have *not* attended their resident public school for the entire year immediately prior to enrollment in the desired choice district and do *not* otherwise meet the requirements for Tier 1. This includes students who have been attending public school outside their districts of residence or private school. Tier 2 students also include students applying for kindergarten who are **not** attending their resident district preschool and do not have a sibling attending the choice district in the current year.

Choice districts are not obligated to accept Tier 2 students. If a choice district accepts Tier 2 applicants, they may do so only *after all the qualified Tier 1 applicants have been accepted*. If the number of Tier 2 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a Tier 2 lottery to select students.

Enrollment preference may be given to students in the following circumstances: 1) applicants with siblings enrolled in the choice district in the current year and will continue to be enrolled in the following year; 2) applicants who will have completed the terminal grade of a sending choice district (i.e., students who attend a choice district with grades that terminate before 12th grade and with a natural progression to the choice district); and 3) resident students of the choice district who move during the school year but *before the application deadline* and want to remain in the choice district the following year. The applicant's enrollment preference status will be determined from the information provided in this application and verified by the resident district.

Choice District Enrollment Policies	Does Policy Apply?
a. The district accepts Tier 2 students (see definitions of Tier 1 and Tier 2).	No
b. The district gives enrollment preference to applicants with a sibling who is a currently enrolled choice student and who will continue to be enrolled in the following year, provided the applicant will enroll in a choice-approved grade/program and they meet any program-specific criteria, and the district has determined that a seat is available in the desired grade. <i>The district will receive additional choice seats above the NJDOE-approved choice enrollment maximum for sibling preference applicants who apply by the application deadline.</i>	Yes
c. The district gives enrollment preference to choice applicants who have completed the terminal grade of the sending district (i.e., students who attend a choice district with grades that terminate before 12th grade and have a natural progression to this choice district), provided there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/programs and the applicants meet any program-specific criteria. <i>The district will receive additional choice seats above the NJDOE-approved choice enrollment maximum for send-receive preference applicants who apply by the application deadline.</i>	N/A
d. The district gives enrollment preference to resident students who move <i>before the application deadline</i> . If resident students move and submit choice applications for the following year prior to the deadline, the district will give them enrollment preference, provided there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/programs and the applicants meet any program-specific criteria. <i>If the district has already reached its NJDOE-approved choice enrollment maximum, this preference will not apply.</i>	No
e. The district gives special consideration to resident students who move <i>after</i> the application deadline. Students in this situation may apply as late applicants and be added to the <i>front of the district's waitlist</i> , provided the students will enroll in a choice-approved grade/program and they meet any program-specific criteria. <i>No additional choice seats will be approved to accommodate these students.</i>	No

Middle Township School District has adopted the following policies regarding student enrollment:

If any information on this application is proven to be falsified, the student's admission to the choice program could be revoked.

By my signature I certify that I am applying for my student's admission to the choice district for academic reasons only and not for athletic or extracurricular reasons and that all of the information I have provided is accurate. If my student has a current IEP or 504 Plan, I hereby give permission to the Child Study Team of this choice district to release and/or obtain information on behalf of my student.

I understand that transportation of choice students is not guaranteed. If my student is eligible for transportation (within 20 miles from home to school) and the cost will exceed the maximum amount designated in the annual NJ State budget, the parent/guardian will be given aid in lieu of transportation and, in some cases, the option of receiving the transportation and paying the additional amount over the maximum. I will be notified by August 1 of my transportation options.

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Printed name of parent or guardian: _____

Date: _____

Application is due to the Choice District by November 24, 2025

**Applications received after the deadline will be considered for enrollment only after those who applied before the deadline.*

**Student Notification to Resident District
of Intent to Participate in the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program**
Enrollment in the 2026-2027 School Year

Date: _____

To the Superintendent/Chief School Administrator of Choice Applicant's Resident District:

From the Parent or Guardian of the Choice Applicant: _____

Deadline: Submit to the student's resident district by 11/24/2025

As parent/legal guardian of the student named below, I am submitting this notification of my student's intent to participate in the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program (enrollment in September 2026). If my child is accepted into a choice program, my child's resident district will be notified of such by the choice district by January 12, 2026, or when enrollment is confirmed. *This form requires no response from the resident district¹.*

Notes to Resident District

The purpose of this form is to give the resident district advance notice of the student's intent to apply to a choice district for enrollment in 2026-27.

Subsequently, if the student is accepted into a choice program, the resident district must be notified by the choice district by **January 12, 2026**. There may be cases where the choice district accepts late choice student applications. In these cases, the resident district will be notified as soon as the choice student confirms enrollment.

Transportation of choice students will be the responsibility of the *resident district*, provided the student meets the eligibility requirements of state law and the choice district school is within 20 miles of the student's residence. For more information, read the [Transportation Procedures](#) for choice students.

Notes to Parents Regarding Transportation

Transportation of choice students is not guaranteed. Your student must meet the eligibility requirements: the school must be within 20 miles of your student's residence. If the cost of transportation will exceed the maximum amount established in the Annual Appropriations Act, the parent/guardian will be given aid in lieu of transportation and, in some cases, the option of paying the additional amount over the maximum to receive the transportation. By Aug. 1, 2026, parents should receive notification of their transportation options from the resident district. For more information, read the [Transportation Procedures](#) for choice students.

Student's Name:

Student's Home Address:

Current School:

Current grade:

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian:

Address of Parent/Guardian:

Contact Number:

¹Pursuant to [N.J.A.C. 6A:12-4.1](#), sending districts with a Commissioner-approved resolution limiting its students' participation in the choice program shall comply with additional procedures and timelines.

Notice of Intent to Enroll
in the Choice Program for the 2026-2027 School Year
Due to the Choice District by January 8, 2026*

* Choice districts may accept late applicants, however late applicants will be considered only after those who applied by the deadline and only if choice seats are available.

Instructions:

For Parents of Accepted Choice Students:

1. Parents of students who will accept enrollment in the choice district must fill in this form and return it to the choice district **by January 8, 2026**, or as soon as possible after notification of acceptance by the choice district. *The form must be submitted to only one choice district.*
2. Transportation may not be provided for your student. Depending on the circumstances, the resident district may provide aid in lieu of transportation. Read the [transportation procedures](#) for more information.
3. Choice districts may set a deadline for registration for new choice students. If a newly accepted choice student does not register by the publicized deadline, then the district can revoke acceptance and notify the next applicant on the waitlist of conditional acceptance.

For Choice Districts:

The choice district must send a copy of each accepted choice student's ***Notice of Intent to Enroll*** to the respective resident district **by January 12** or as soon as possible after receipt from parents to serve as notification.

Choice districts may set a deadline for registration for new choice students; if a newly accepted choice student does not register by the publicized deadline, then the district can revoke acceptance and notify the next applicant on the waitlist of conditional acceptance.

For Resident Districts:

This form serves as notification that this student has been accepted into a choice program in school year 2026-27. *No action is required on your part, however you will be responsible for providing transportation if the student meets the eligibility requirements.* For information on the choice program and responsibilities of resident districts, visit the [choice website](#).

Notice of Intent to Enroll Form:

Date: _____

To: Stephanie DeRose
Middle Township Public Schools
216 S. Main Street
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

As Parent or Legal Guardian of the student named below, I certify my student's intention to enroll in the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program in the **Middle Township School District** in September 2026. I also grant permission to the **Middle Township School District** to obtain all necessary student records from my student's district of residence.

Choice Student's Name:

Choice Student's Address:

Student's Current School (2025-26):

Student's Current District of Residence (2025-2026):

Student's Current Grade Level (2025-2026):

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian:

Address of Parent/Guardian:

Parent's Phone:

Parent's Email:

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Division of Finance
Office of Student Transportation**

REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AID - CHOICE SCHOOL STUDENT

This request shall be filed by the parent or guardian of eligible choice school students with the secretary of the local school district for the first and second semesters upon request. This request must be filed prior to the end of the fiscal year (N.J.A.C. 6A:27-4.1(c)2)).

I, _____ do hereby certify that _____
(Parent or Guardian) (Name of Student)

who resides at _____ has been transported to _____
(Address of Student - Street #, City/Town, State, and Zip Code)
_____ situated in _____
(Choice School) (City) (State)

not more than 20 miles from the residence of the student for the period of time from _____
Month Day Year

to _____ . In consideration thereof, I hereby request payment of transportation aid pursuant
Month Day Year

to N.J.S.A. 18A:-39-1.

I do solemnly declare and certify under the penalties of the law that this request for payment is correct in all it's particulars, and that I am not claiming reimbursement or receiving transportation from any other school district for the same period of time.

(Date) (Signature of Parent or Guardian)

(Daytime Telephone Number)

WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED, THIS FORM MAY BE ACCEPTED AS AN OFFICIAL VOUCHER. THE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY PAY TRANSPORTATION AID BASED ON THIS CLAIM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 and 18A:19-3