

## Lottery/Wait List Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the priority levels for the lottery?

Priority 1: Students returning to Alturas

Priority 2: Children of \*Founders/Employees

Priority 3: Siblings of currently enrolled students

Priority 4: Those living within our enrollment area (D91, D93, Shelley District 60)

Priority 5: Those living outside our enrollment area

\*Founders are entities/families that donated a significant amount of money at the start-up of Alturas. Sufficient start-up funds are not provided by the state; charter school are required to solicit private donations, fund raise, etc for initial funds. Founders donated knowing that enrollment privileges accompanied their donation. By state law no more than 10% of our enrollment can be made up of children in Priority 1 category.

Priorities are dictated by state statute and carefully adhered to by our staff. It is impossible for any favoritism to be shown to a student, family, demographic, etc. It has been said that there are politics in charter school lotteries. Nothing could be further from the truth. The only thing that exists in the lottery are rules, regulations and statutes. (And a whole lot of work) :)

### What does the timeline look like?

Acceptance Letters and Registrations Forms will be sent to the email on file when a student is offered a seat in the lottery. Those are due mid April (the due date is printed on the Acceptance Letter). Once that date is passed our staff will reassess. Wait lists will be reordered and published, and additional acceptance letters will be sent. This process will continue to occur approximately every 2 weeks until school starts next fall. Again, we encourage you to HANG TIGHT :) Some grades will have a great deal of turnover between now and then, and some will have little. It is nearly impossible for us to predict.

### **My First Grader got a seat but my Fourth Grader is number 20 on the wait list. I'd prefer not to have my kids at different schools.**

The short answer: HANG TIGHT! The longer answer: The initial wait list sent following the lottery is strictly DRAW ORDER, the order that each student was randomized in the lottery. If you choose to register your first grader you will then have an "enrolled student". When our wait lists are shuffled (approximately every 2 weeks beginning mid April) your fourth grader will be moved up on the wait list. It is the goal of Alturas, and the goal of the state to keep families

together in schools. Eventually, we hope to see siblings enrolled together. In the worst case scenario you have children at different schools for a time. Our enrollment continues to fluctuate some throughout the school year. If your other child(ren) still didn't get in they would enter next years lottery as a "sibling" and be almost guaranteed a spot.

**Why am I so low on the wait list? I got my enrollment application submitted in January.**

As directed by state statute we accept lottery applications for a specified period of time prior to the lottery. The date/time the lottery application is submitted has NO bearing on its standing in the lottery, or the wait list. This is something that we don't have any say over, again, we are adhering to the state statutes regarding Charter Schools. Any enrollment application submitted AFTER the lottery period are added to wait lists in the order they are received BELOW those submitted during the initial lottery enrollment period.

**I'm lower than I'd like to be on the wait list, is there anything I can do?**

The answer is simple, no. Again, we'd encourage you to hang tight and hope for the best! We certainly wish we could enroll every interested family. We're told by the state Charter Commission that wait lists are healthy, and a sign that we're a great educational choice. We sincerely hope to see your student enrolled!