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Ocean City School District Choice Program: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which grade levels are open for admission to the Ocean City School District's School Choice Program? Only 9th Grade applications will be accepted.
2. Are there any academic criteria that are necessary for admission? Academic criteria is required for ALL the 9th grade academies (STEM, ASL, Performing Arts, Academy of Banking and Finance, Tomorrow's Teachers, Criminal Justice and TV/Media, etc.) In order to receive consideration for admission, students must present grades of B or better (83) in all core academic areas as demonstrated on the final report card from 7th grade. They must also present scores of 725 or higher for the 7th Grade NJSLA Summative Assessment. A combination of testing years is allowable.
3. Does acceptance into any specific HS program prohibit students from enrolling in any courses taken by the general college-preparatory student body? No – both "Choice" students and regular OCHS students have access to all courses offered by the high school based upon enrollment availability. All students are strongly encouraged to stretch themselves academically and participate in our Honors/AP courses when possible.
4. How do I get transported to and from the Ocean City School District? Transportation is the responsibility of the parent and home public school district. Meetings are held to discuss the options and procedures and the Ocean City School District Business Administrator will assist with information and contacting the Business Administrators at the home school district. It is the home district's decision as to whether to provide a bus or simply give the parent aid-in-lieu of a bus – approximately \$1000.
5. If you have a certain number of spots and receive more than that number of qualified applicants, how are the spots awarded? Once enrollment preference is established an audited lottery for both 9th Tier 1 and Tier 2 will be held to determine the awarded placement and a waitlist will be established. The Tier 1 waitlist would need to be exhausted before accepting Tier 2 students at both grade levels.
6. Will I be able to participate in the athletic programs and co-curricular programs at Ocean City High School? School Choice students are afforded the opportunity to participate in all OCSD athletic and co-curricular programs. However, transportation remains the responsibility of the parent and home public school.
7. What about notification of interest to the home district? Is there anything I need to do with them? The New Jersey timeline for School Choice requires the parent to contact and notify their home district of their intent to apply for the school choice program. The Notification of Intent to Participate form will be sent to you via email once you have completed the online application.
8. I'm currently in private/parochial school or a K-8 School Choice Program - am I eligible for this program? Yes, however, students currently in private schools are considered Tier 2 applicants. Currently, all Tier 1 applicants must be afforded admission prior to a Tier 2 applicant. Students currently in K-8 School Choice Programs will be given enrollment preference as long as they meet the academic requirements. See page 3 of our application to



see a more complete explanation of Tier 1 versus 2 and other preferences that may be used in admission.

9. Are siblings of current choice students given preference in the admissions process? Yes – based upon seat availability. However, siblings of current students who are seeking to gain entry into one of the 9th programs must also meet the admissions criteria.