OCEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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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 incoming 9th Grade applications are accepted**.
2. Are there any academic criteria that are necessary for admission? **Yes, academic criteria is required for ALL the 9th grade academies. 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 1485 or higher for the 7th Grade NJSLA -A in both Math and ELA. Please note that in addition to required application documents, student attendance will be considered as part of final approval. The NJDOE has identified regular attendance as a critical factor in student achievement, and research consistently shows that consistent attendance is strongly linked to academic success.**
3. Does acceptance into any specific high school program prohibit students from enrolling in any courses taken by the general 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 is my student transported to and from the Ocean City School District? **Transportation is the responsibility of the sending district. The Ocean City School District Business Administrator will assist with information regarding transportation. It is the resident district's decision as to whether they will provide your choice student transportation or if they will pay "aid-in-lieu" of a transportation – approximately $1000 annually.**
5. What 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 during an audited lottery for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 students. The lottery will be held to determine the**

awarded placement and a waitlist will be established. The lottery date is determined by NJDOE annually. The Tier 1 waitlist would need to be exhausted before accepting Tier 2 students.

6. Will I be able to participate in the athletic programs and co-curricular programs at Ocean City High School? **Yes, 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 resident district.**
7. What do I need to know about "Notice of Intent to Enroll"? **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 parents via email once you have completed the online application. You must complete and submit the form by the annual deadline date.**
8. My student is currently enrolled in a private school or homeschool (non-public), am I eligible for this program? **Yes, however, private school or homeschool applicants are considered Tier 2 applicants. Currently, all Tier 1 applicants must be afforded admission prior to a Tier 2 applicant.**
9. What if my student is currently in a K-8 School Choice Programs where Ocean City High School is the sending district? **Your student will be given enrollment preference as long as they meet the academic requirements.**
10. Are siblings of current choice students given preference in the admissions process? **Yes, based upon seat availability. However, siblings of current students must apply and meet all application requirements.**

If you have additional questions please contact Dr. Lauren Gunther: 609 399 1290 / schoolchoice@ocsdnj.org