



## High School Academy Acceptance Process FAQ

### Academy Qualification

#### How do students qualify for acceptance into one of the high school academies?

Step 1:

Students must reside in the FBISD attendance zone, have passing 7<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR\* scores, and participate in an interview and/or math exam and meet the minimum exam and interview standards for each specific academy.

Step 2:

Student's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade semester grades in math, science, English and social studies are used along with the exam and/or interview score to calculate a composite score. Students are rank ordered by highest composite score academy is allotted a specific number of seats at the campus. The top students within that specific number are accepted.

#### How are the interview and exam minimum scores determined?

Each year, the number of applicants and the number of seats are examined along with other data including average scores and likelihood of academic success to determine minimum scores for entrance at each academy. Each academy may have different minimum scores since the data examined is distinct for each program.

#### Can students who are accepted and also committed to an academy lose their acceptance before the school year?

Yes, the offer to attend is contingent upon successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes during the regular school year and also grade 8 STAAR\* scores which are considered passing.

### Academy Acceptance

#### What is the difference between priority and regular acceptance windows?

The priority acceptance window will run first and send invitations to the students who are in the top number of open seats who selected an academy as either their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice during the application process. Students have a few days to accept or decline these invitations. If no action is taken, the student will be declined automatically. Following this priority window, a longer acceptance window will process the remaining invitations and students will follow the same process to either accept or decline their invitations.

#### If my child is a top qualifier for a particular academy, but does not select that academy as his 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, does he lose his spot?

No, if the student does not commit to another academy (which may be his 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice) during the priority window, he will receive his notification on the first day of the regular acceptance window.

#### Is it possible to be accepted to more than one academy?

Yes, students will receive an offer to commit to all academies to which they meet the standards and fall in the top tier of applicants for the seats available at each academy.

#### After students receive an invitation, are they automatically registered at the academy?

No, students receive an acceptance invitation which tells them they must login to their application and commit to the academy by the deadline communicated in the notice.

#### Do all academies have the same number of seats available?

No, academy seats for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders are determined by looking at current and future building utilization. The number of students who may be accepted at each academy changes year to year.

### Academy Waiting Lists

#### How are students placed on a waiting list for an academy?

Students who met the criteria in Step 1, above but who were not in the top set of applicants for the number of seats available at an academy, are placed on a waiting list. If spots become available, students are offered acceptance in order from highest to lowest composite score.

#### Can students be accepted or waitlisted at one academy and denied at another?

Yes, since the scores required (interview or exam) vary and the minimum scores required on interview and exams may be different at different academies, it is possible to be in accepted or waitlisted for one academy but denied for another.

**Can students find out where they are on the waiting list?**

Yes, students may log in to their application to view their position on a waiting list. Each student's position on a waiting list changes constantly as students accept or decline invitations.

**Can a student predict whether or not they will get an invitation based on their position on the waiting list?**

Not really, there is no way to predict exactly how many students may be pulled off the waiting list. One academy may not pull any students from a waiting list and another academy may pull 80 students off a waiting list.

**If a spot opens at an academy, how long does it take for the next waitlisted student to find out?**

An email will be sent immediately. Our online application is programmed to send the notices automatically the moment a spot becomes available.

**What should students do if they have been accepted to one academy but are on a waiting list for their first choice?**

Students in this position may hold off on accepting an invitation to see if they are moved off the waiting list. However, all students must accept an invitation by the deadline specified in the acceptance letter or they forfeit the invitation.

**If students have multiple acceptance notifications, is it alright if they wait until the last day to accept one and decline the others?**

All acceptance invitations hold a spot that other students on a waiting list are hoping to receive. Students with multiple offers are strongly urged to go into their application and decline invitations they know they will not be accepting.

*\*Students with documented IEPs will have their applications reviewed by a committee for determination of qualification. Students moving into the state or those who do not have scores will be asked to provide alternative testing information.*