

RePublic Schools Enrollment Policy

Admissions Process

RePublic School's enrollment policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services. Every aspect of RePublic School's enrollment and recruitment practices will comply with Jackson Public Schools, Mississippi State, and federal standards.

Parents wishing to enroll their child at any RePublic School can fill out an application online, by mail, or in person. The application will request basic contact information for the student and parents/guardians as well as information regarding siblings already attending a RePublic School. The application will also request free and reduced lunch information in order to assess and provide priority. The student recruitment team will be responsible for processing applications—all applications will be filed in hard copy form with a time stamp and the initials of the person who received it.

The application window will open the first week of October and the application deadline will be the second week of February.

Admissions Preference

Siblings of current RePublic Schools students and children of RePublic Schools staff or board members will be given admissions preference. These individuals will be drawn first in the lottery, with the total number of seats allocated to siblings and children of staff/board members to not exceed 10% of total seats available. Admissions preference will also be given to students who either qualify for free lunch or have an IEP. Students who qualify for free lunch or have an IEP will be drawn second in the lottery. A student will not receive double preference if he/she both qualifies for free lunch and has an IEP. If there are more students who either qualify for free lunch and have an IEP than spaces available, RePublic Schools will conduct a lottery drawing only from this set of students.

RePublic Schools will determine which students have IEPs by submitting a list of student names and MSIS numbers for applications on file to MDE and having MDE identify which students have IEPs using MSIS data. Families will be able to sign release of information when they apply to any RePublic School. Free lunch will also be assessed, firstly, through the same process of requesting information from MDE. Additionally, families will be able to provide their free/reduced lunch information when they apply for any RePublic School. The provided information will be used to identify free lunch students and provide priority. For students who are not directly qualified for free lunch, RePublic Schools will determine free lunch eligibility using household income data provided on the application.

Enrollment Process

Once a student has been admitted to a RePublic School, parents will be notified by email, mail, and phone call. The notification will include a list of forms that need to be provided in order to finalize enrollment and any dates for orientations or informational meetings. Parents must accept their student's seat at a RePublic Schools February orientation. Families can submit required paperwork either in person or via mail. If parents miss the February orientation, their student will forfeit his/her spot at the RePublic School. Students who enroll at a RePublic School will automatically be guaranteed a seat for all subsequent grade levels unless that student withdraws from the school. Previous RePublic Schools students will not receive admissions preference should they choose to reapply.

Lottery

We anticipate that the number of applications received will exceed the number of spots available. Therefore, in accordance with Mississippi state law, we will hold a lottery that is “equitable, transparent, randomized, and impartial” to determine which students will attend. The lottery will be governed by a few basic rules:

- All students who complete an application by the February deadline and fit the criteria as established by Mississippi law are enrolled in the lottery.
- Siblings of current RePublic Schools students and children of RePublic Schools staff and board members will be given admissions preference. These individuals will be drawn first in the lottery.
- Students who qualify for free lunch or have an IEP will received admissions preference. These students will be drawn second in the lottery.
- The lottery will be conducted by the end of February of each year and will be conducted via a third party program and notarized by a third party observer.
- After the available slots are filled, the program will keep drawing the names of the remaining applicants in the appropriate category and place them on a waitlist in the order they are drawn.

Waiting List

Waitlisted families will be contacted as spaces become available. Families selected from the waitlist will have two weeks from the date of acceptance to turn in their paperwork.

Subsequent Application Windows

After the initial application window ending in February, RePublic Schools will have three additional minimum application windows.

At the end of each window, if there are more applications than spots still available, RePublic Schools will conduct a lottery in adherence with the above described procedure. Families will have two weeks from the date of acceptance to turn in paperwork.

Withdrawals, Re-Enrollment, and Transfers

RePublic strives to retain all students who enroll at a RePublic school. However, given that RePublic schools are schools of choice, we anticipate some attrition both over the summer and during the school year. If a family chooses to withdraw a student, the parent/guardian is asked to sign a form giving up that student’s spot. If a family chooses to withdraw a student during the school, RePublic makes every effort to have an exit interview to discuss reasons for withdrawal.

RePublic will work with the Mississippi Department of Education and the Jackson Public School District to ensure a smooth transfer process between any RePublic School and a traditional district school. RePublic will provide all academic records as needed.

Students are guaranteed re-enrollment each year. Students who withdraw during the school year and wish to return must reapply through the application process. There is no admissions preference to former RePublic students.

Pre-Enrollment Activities

In order to ensure a smooth transition for students and families in to a RePublic school, RePublic hosts a series of pre-enrollment activities:

- Tours and Information Sessions (November-February): Families are encouraged to tour any and all RePublic Schools and attend an information session during the application window. During the tour and information session, families can experience RePublic's culture, meet administrators, and ask questions.
- Welcome Orientation (Mid February): RePublic will host a welcome event for families to attend and formally accept their seat. Families will fill out enrollment paperwork, meet staff, and learn about the next steps in the enrollment process.
- New Student Orientation (Mid May): During New Student Orientation, students take a diagnostic reading exam to help determine placement in classes. The exam does not determine admissions to the school. Further, families receive any necessary additional paperwork and meet teachers.
- Back to School Night (Late July): Students come to Back to School Night in uniform to see their classroom and meet their teachers. During Back to School Night, parents fill out lunch order forms and free and reduced eligibility forms.

All pre-enrollment activities are optional. Families are strongly encouraged to attend these events, but attendance at these events does not impact admissions.