

RePublic Schools Enrollment Policy

Mississippi

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 phone, 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 electronic form with a time stamp.

The application window will open the first week of November. Applications will remain open until the first week of August.

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.

Enrollment Process

Once a student has been admitted to a RePublic School, parents will be notified by email 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 within two weeks of receiving the offer of enrollment. . Families can submit required paperwork either in person or via email. 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.

Entry Records

When a new 1st-8th grade student enrolls in school, the parent must provide the previous year's report card including promotion/retention status from the last school attended. Report cards will not impact enrollment but are used to inform school staff of how to best support the student.

- Students entering the 4th grade also must provide state test results for the 3rd Grade Reading Gate. This is to ensure that the student can be legally promoted to 4th grade.
- Students entering the 4th grade from an out of state school or private school will only need to provide previous year's report card including promotion/retention status from the last school attended.
- If the parent is unable to provide the report card, for cases such as homeschool, the student will need to complete testing for grade level placement.

When a new 1st-8th grade student enrolls in school, the parent must provide the discipline report from the last school attended. Discipline reports will not impact enrollment but are used to inform school staff of how to best support the student.

- If the student was expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act that involves violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any other felonious activity that may result in expulsion, the school district shall not grant admission or enrollment to the student before one (1) year after the date of the expulsion. Miss. Code § 37-15-9. Failure to reveal expulsion/expulsion hearings will result in revoking admission.

Parents notifying the district of their scholars' special needs or IEPs – If you know or believe your child has special learning and behavioral needs, our Child Find process helps you exercise your right as a parent/guardian and immediately notify Republic Schools. Through this process, we gather data and determine what needs and supports are needed for your scholar. Sharing this information ensures that we serve your scholar to our capacity-- by preparing a proper learning environment and services for your scholar for the school year. Failure to notify Republic Schools immediately of your scholar's known or suspected special need may delay proper services for your scholar.

- Scholars must be potty trained before enrolling in a Republic School or you must provide medical documentation of your child's special needs prior to enrollment. Failure to notify us of any special need may result in our delayed ability to provide your child proper services.

3rd grade reading gate – As a region of public charter schools, Republic Schools in Mississippi are required to participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) for grades 3-8. Scholars who come to us must take the test beginning in the 3rd grade.

- 3rd grade scholars must pass the reading assessment during one of the 3 attempts to be promoted to the 4th grade.

- Scholars who transfer from another school must provide proof that demonstrates a score of “passing” or better on the reading test at their former school or they will be placed in the 3rd grade upon transfer.

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 lottery 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 receive 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.
- 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 February Lottery applications will remain open. Applications received after the lottery will be processed within 72 hours. If a seat is available families will be notified by email and phone. If there is a waitlist for the applied grade applicants will be added to the waitlist in the order they are received. Waitlist status updates will be through email.

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 year, 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 (October-May):** 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 Events (March and April):** RePublic Schools will host welcome events for new families that have been offered admission for the upcoming year. Families will be able to meet leaders and teachers and receive enrollment assistance.
- **Back to School Night (Late July):** New and returning families are invited to meet teachers, finalize enrollment, and receive transportation information.

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