



Lottery FAQ's Date updated: March 28, 2010

This list of Frequently Asked Questions may be updated as required. Please review the Lottery Procedures document available from the school's web site for more information.

**Q: Why is ORCA conducting a lottery?**

A: ORCA is conducting a lottery because recent legislation passed in Oregon will limit the enrollment in ORCA to 2,574 students.

**Q: When will the lottery take place?**

A: The lottery will take place on May 8. No new enrollments for the lottery will be accepted after 6 p.m. on May 7. Enrollment will reopen on May 10.

**Q: When and how will I be notified of the results of the lottery?**

A: Students will be notified of their status for enrollment by 6 p.m. PDT on May 10, by Webmail and email.

**Q: How can new students get into the lottery?**

A: You must have completed your student's school registration including their grade placement by 6 p.m. PDT May 7. In order to complete your enrollment, once you are accepted in the lottery, you must still complete your student's final confirmation between July 15 and July 23 in order to receive their materials and maintain their enrollment.

**Q: Why does my student have to complete certain enrollment tasks to be considered eligible to participate in the lottery if they are a new student enrolling in ORCA?**

A: ORCA determines the number of students it can accept in each grade based on the number of teachers on its staff and their certification by grade and/or subject. Therefore, we need to know your student's grade placement which is determined by the enrollment tasks.

**Q: If I have two new students who want to enroll who are eligible for the lottery and one is selected in the lottery, will the second student automatically get in?**

A: Yes, so long as the school has not yet reached its maximum enrollment at the time the first student is selected.

**Q: I have a student who dropped out during the school year and I would like to come back? Will I receive priority?**

A: No. Students who previously withdrew and now want to come back will be treated the same as new students.

**Q: I show up in the Pre-Approved stage but I have completed everything for placement. Will I be in the lottery?**

A: If you have submitted everything for your student to be placed, your information will be processed prior to the lottery.

**Q: How will my priority on the waiting list be determined?**

A: If your student is subjected to the lottery, but is not selected, you will be assigned a waiting list priority based on when your number is drawn. If you have registered for enrollment, but have not completed your grade placement and therefore were not in the lottery, you will be assigned a place on the waiting list based on the date and time that all enrollment tasks are completed to move the student to the Approved stage after any students who were placed on the waiting list at the time of the lottery. Siblings will move up to the top of the waiting list if any other student in the household is enrolled.

**Q: How will students on the waiting list be moved into any openings in the school?**

A: Students will be moved from the waiting list based on when an opening in their grade range is available as the result of a student withdrawal. Based on prior experience, there will be openings available before and after the start of the school year. You will be notified by Webmail, email and phone if an opening becomes available for your student.

**Q: If my student is selected from the wait list, how will I be notified and how long do I have to finalize my student's enrollment?**

A: You will be contacted by phone, Webmail and email if your student is selected from the wait list. You will then have two days in order to complete your Final Confirmation of your intent to enroll. Your student must enroll at that time. You will not be able to request a delayed entry. If you do not respond or are not willing to enroll your student at that time, the opening will go to the next student on the list.

**Q: I said yes on the intent to return but have not completed returning student tasks. Am I automatically in the school for next year?**

A: No. Intent to return is just the preliminary indication of your intent. You must complete the returning student tasks in order to confirm you are returning. If you do not complete them, then you will not be enrolled and will not be in the lottery. You will be placed on the waiting list after you complete the tasks at the time you complete them.

**Q: I said no or left blank, the intent to return information for my student, do they have priority in enrollment?**

A: No. If you did not complete the intent to return tasks for your returning student by the time of the lottery, they will lose their priority placement and will not even be included in the lottery.

**Q: I have heard that ORCA might close down and I am concerned about enrolling my student. Is this true?**

A: ORCA's charter has been extended through June of 2015. The legislation that limits ORCA's enrollment and provides other conditions expires in June of 2011. While, it is not clear what the legislature will do that could affect ORCA's continued ability to operate past June of 2011, the legislature was very clear that it was not their intention to displace ORCA students or to close the school, so the school remains very positive about its future.

**Q: I have heard that new students must be approved by their resident school district in order to enroll. Is this true?**

A: No. Students enrolling in ORCA do not require resident school district approval. There are other virtual schools operating in Oregon that do require school district approval for new students.

**Q: Once I am selected in the lottery, do I need to do anything else to be enrolled?**

A: Yes, if you are a new student, you must complete the "Final Confirmation" as described in your enrollment materials prior to July 24. Final confirmation is available starting July 15.

**Q: Do I have any options for enrolling my student in ORCA if I am not selected in the lottery?**

A: If you are on the waiting list, you may have a good chance of being enrolled as students do withdraw prior to and after the start of the school year. You are encouraged to maintain your waiting list status.

If you are not able to enroll in the Oregon Connections Academy, which is a free public school, but are interested in the Connections Academy program, you may enroll on a tuition basis in the accredited National Connections Academy private school. Connections Academy is providing a tuition discount for any student who is in the enrollment system but not selected in the lottery of 25%. Any other student from Oregon who is not able to register for enrollment by May 7, 2010 can receive a discount of 10%. Connections Academy will provide this discount as long as Oregon maintains an enrollment cap on the Oregon Connections Academy and a lottery is required. Contact 800-382-6010 for more information and ask about enrolling in the National Connections Academy.

**Q: If my student is on the waiting list this year, but does not get in, will they have priority next year?**

A: The ORCA lottery policy only provides priority to students enrolled at the time of the lottery, siblings of returning students and residents of the Scio School District. However, you will be able to maintain your place at the top of the waiting list for the next school year.

**Q: If my student withdraws during the school year and I want to come back, will I need to seek enrollment again and go on the waiting list?**

A: Yes, if you want to return during the year in which your student withdraws, they will need to seek enrollment again as a new student, if a new enrollment window is open. If you want to return in a subsequent year, your student will be treated on the same basis as another new student.