



## Public Random Drawing/Lottery Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to providing quality education to all students who wish to attend, within the school boundaries. Based on available resources, it may be necessary to limit admissions, and in that event a Public Random Drawing/Lottery will be held to determine admission. The Cottonwood School ensures admission will not be based on any protected characteristics, including, but not limited to, disability, race, gender, national origin, and religion.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving the Public Random Drawing/Lottery Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the procedures under which the The Cottonwood School (“School”) will conduct the School’s public random drawing/lottery in the event that applications for enrollment exceed the School’s capacity.

**1. Enrollment:** The School is a non-classroom / classroom-based charter school that operates an independent study program and a classroom based Montessori High School. Admission to the School is open to any student who resides within the boundaries of El Dorado County or an adjacent county. The School will accept all students who wish to attend, so long as it has the capacity to serve them. The School’s Governing Board will annually determine the maximum enrollment for each school year based on, among other factors, the annual budget, staffing, and available resources prior to the start of the Open Enrollment Period. Limits may be established by grade level and for the school as a whole.

The Board will set an Open Enrollment Period each year. Applications will be accepted during the publicly advertised Open Enrollment Period each year for enrollment during the following school year. Following the close of the Open Enrollment Period, applications shall be counted to determine whether the School has received more applications than maximum enrollment capacity. If the number of pupils who wish to attend the School exceeds the School’s capacity for a specific grade level, enrollment in the impacted grade level or levels will be determined by a Lottery conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Policy and applicable law. Admission preferences will only be extended consistent with this Policy, the School’s charter, and applicable law.

Admission preferences will not be based on any protected characteristics, including, but not limited to, disability, race, gender, national origin, and religion. In addition, enrollment preferences will not limit enrollment access for pupils with disabilities, academically low-achieving pupils, English learners, neglected or delinquent pupils, homeless pupils, or pupils who are economically disadvantaged, as determined by eligibility for any free or reduced-price meal program, or foster youth.

**2. Lottery Procedures:** In the event that there are more students who wish to attend the School than there are spots available upon closure of the Open Enrollment Period, the School will

conduct a Lottery during the Spring semester prior to the academic year for which enrollment is sought.

All pupils, except those who are guaranteed admission as provided in this Policy and the School's charter, who wish to enroll in the School must participate in the Lottery subject to the following:

1. Students who reside within the boundaries of the Buckeye Union Elementary School District ("District") will have their names placed in the Lottery pool twice.
2. Students who reside outside the boundaries of the District will have their names placed in the Lottery once.

The following students are exempt from the Lottery and are guaranteed enrollment in the School: (1) students currently enrolled in the School at the close of the Open Enrollment period; and (2) siblings of currently enrolled students. "Sibling" is defined as a pupil who has at least one biological or adoptive parent in common with the admitted pupil, or who has been legally adopted by or placed under the legal guardianship of at least one biological or adoptive parent of the admitted pupil. Step-siblings are only considered siblings if they reside at the same address as the sibling who is admitted into the School; and (3) children of staff members employed by The Cottonwood School.

Public notice of the Open Enrollment Period and date of the Lottery will generally be posted on the School's website and the notice will provide the date, time, and location of the Lottery at least 10 days prior to the commencement of the Open Enrollment Period. This information will also be included in application forms. The Lottery will be conducted [by grade-level and ] by the Principal or his/her designee using a random method of selection. Unique identifiers will be assigned to each applicant. The conduct of the Lottery will be open to the public and families are encouraged, but not required, to attend. The Principal or his/her designee will announce each applicant who is granted admission through the Lottery. Once the enrollment cap has been reached, the Principal or his/her designee will continue to drawing applicants will then be placed on the waitlist in the order drawn. Successful applicants will be notified electronically or by mail.

If a student is extended an offer of admission due to one of the preferences noted in this Policy or the School's charter, the School may request supporting documentation as part of the enrollment process. The School will conduct a verification of such documentation prior to finalizing the student's enrollment and may disqualify an applicant submitting materially false information.

After the Lottery process, and once an offer has been accepted by the family, additional information may be requested as part of the registration process. Following acceptance through the Lottery, students who are offered admission at the School at the time of the Lottery will have 10 calendar days to complete the registration process. If a student fails to timely complete the process, the spot may be filled from the waiting list.

Enrollment offers are valid only for the academic year for which the Lottery is conducted. There is no option to defer an offer of enrollment. Students accepting enrollment must

generally complete required independent study agreements within seven (7) days of the beginning of the school year, unless otherwise advised by the School.

- 3. Waitlist:** If a slot becomes available because an accepted student declines enrollment, fails to timely complete the enrollment process, a student leaves the School after the start of the academic year, or as spots become available, the School may notify families on the waitlist in the order they appear on the waitlist.

Students drawn from the waitlist shall have five (5) school days to accept the enrollment slot (via telephone or email to the School) and proceed with the registration process. Applicants must complete a registration packet with all required documentation and by the deadline given by the School to confirm enrollment.

Students who are not offered a spot for the academic school year for which the Lottery was held may remain on the waitlist for that academic year unless the parent or guardian requests that the student be removed from the waitlist earlier. The waitlist shall not carry over from one year to the next. Students who have not been admitted will be required to submit a new enrollment application for the next school year and are required to participate in the Lottery if space is limited.