



Excel Academy-Enrollment FAQs

Q. Do you offer a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program?

A. Yes we do! TK students must turn 5 between September 2 - June 2. Kindergarten age-eligible students are allowed to choose TK if their 5th birthday is between June 1st-September 1st; however, they must sign the Kindergarten Continuance Form verifying that the parent/guardian agrees to have his/her child continue in kindergarten for one additional year. Students may not be promoted directly from TK to 1st grade.

If a student turns 5 after September 1st, entering kindergarten is not an option, they must enroll in TK.

**To enroll in Kindergarten, students must turn 5 on or before September 1st.

Q. What documents are required on the application?

A. Documents required to enroll:

- Proof of Residency
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Transcripts (High School only)
- Oral Health Report Form or waiver (TK, K and 1st Grade only)
- Health Exam Form/Waiver (TK, K and 1st Grade only)
- Translated documents are available upon request.

Q. When can my child start Kindergarten?

A student must turn 5 years old on or before September 1st.

Q. Can you guarantee enrollment?

A. No. Enrollment is based on a first come, first served basis, depending on the date a completed application is received and approved AND the space and availability we have of a ToR in your geographic area. A student is officially enrolled when the parent AND student have signed a Master Agreement with a ToR.

Q. My student has an IEP, do you service Special Education students?

A. Yes. We have a Special Education program, and we provide a variety of services based on a student's IEP. Students with IEPs cannot participate in independent study unless it is deemed an appropriate instructional placement. The CDE provides explicit rules regarding the admission of students with IEPs into independent study:

Special education students may not participate in independent study unless it is specified as an instructional method in their individualized education program (IEP). EC Section 51745(c)

For more information, please see our Special Education page.

Q. Must I include an original copy of my child's birth certificate?

A. No, a copy of the original will be sufficient.

Q. Where can I get a copy of my child's immunization records?

A. You can obtain a copy of immunization records from your child's physician. In most cases, they can email you a copy.

Q. Where do I get the Report of Health Exam filled out?

A. You may take the form to your child's physician or clinic. The physician will complete and sign the form for you. If you cannot make it to the doctor or choose to waive the exam, you may fill out the waiver portion of this form.

Q. What do I need for proof of residency?

A. You must provide a current utility bill such as gas, electric or cable. Other acceptable forms of residency include a property tax bill or rental/lease agreement. All items must be dated within 6 months of the current date.

Q. I live with someone and none of the bills are in my name. How do I show Proof of Residency?

A. Email our Admissions Clerk (admissions@excelacademy.education) for the Shared Residency Affidavit. You can fill out this simple form and turn it in with a copy of the Proof of Residency from the owner of the residence you are residing at.

Q. I registered online, now what?

A. Your application will be reviewed and verified by our Admissions Department. If there is anything missing or incomplete, you will receive an email explaining specifically what is needed. Once the application is verified and approved, you will receive a Confirmation Email which will contain further information. Do not dis-enroll your child from their current school until you have received a Confirmation Email and start date from us. Submitting the application does not constitute automatic enrollment.

Q. How much does it cost to enroll in Excel Academy?

A. We are a tuition-free public charter school. Additionally, families receive a certain amount of budgeted curriculum funds per student per year from the state to be used to purchase curriculum and materials.

Q. Will I be able to choose what grade level my child will be enrolled in?

A. Student enrollment is based on your child's date of birth, per the California Department of Education. Unless your child has repeated a grade previously, or has official school district documentation stating why he/she should be retained or advanced, they must be placed in the grade level that their birth date reflects. We cannot adjust a child's grade level based solely on parent request.

Q. Do you have a school site that we can visit?

A. Excel Academy follows the Independent Study education model. This means that learning primarily takes place in the home with the parent as the primary teacher. We have credentialed Teachers of Record located throughout the counties that we serve. Each family is paired with a ToR to guide and oversee their educational process. The only physical location that we have is administrative offices located in Irvine, CA.

Q. Is this charter school entirely online?

A. No. We have a Virtual path option for 1st-8th grade students, but on the Personalized paths, the parent and their assigned Teacher of Record choose the student's curriculum together. This can be any combination of online classes, physical books, and in-person classes through a community partner. Additionally, families are required to attend monthly in-person meetings with their ToR to check in and turn in work samples.

Q. Who is going to teach my child?

A. In the Personalized paths, learning primarily takes place in the home with the parent as the primary teacher. While each family is paired with

a credentialed teacher who guides and oversees the educational process, it is meant to be the parent who does the everyday teaching and grading. In the Virtual Elementary path, there will be an assigned teacher who will teach the student each of their subjects.

Q. [How long does the admissions process take?](#)

A. Once the application is submitted, we require 5-7 business days to review and verify documents.

Q. [Where can I find the oral and health exams/waivers?](#)

A. Please email our admissions clerk at admissions@excelacademy.education and ask for them. The forms will be emailed back to you promptly.

Q. [I am currently homeless, can I still enroll my kids in Excel, and if so, what do I submit for the Proof of Residency?](#)

A. Yes, You can definitely still enroll! Please email admissions and ask for a copy of the McKinney-Vento form. All you need to do is fill that form out and send it back to us. We will accept it as your Proof of Residency.

Q. [What is a ToR, and are they credentialed?](#)

A. In the Personalized paths, although the parent is the primary teacher for the student, each family is partnered with a Teacher of Record, who is a credentialed teacher. They're there to guide and support you and your student in their education, as well as ensure that they are completing their work and are meeting state standards. Students and their parent meet with the TOR every 20 days to turn in work samples, so the TOR can ensure that learning is happening in the home.

Q. [What sets Excel apart from other charter schools?](#)

A. Excel Academy Charter School offers a tuition free independent study personalized learning model for students in grades TK-12. Our high-quality educational options are rooted in flexible learning, personalized schedules, and

proven systems of support. Our school allows parents to select a wide variety of educational resources and materials from over 500 approved vendors using instructional funds provided by the charter school. Using these educational resources, families have the freedom to build a customized learning experience for their children, tailored to fit their individual needs.

Q. [I'm the parent of a high schooler, and I'm terrible at math. How am I going to help my child with work if I don't understand it myself?](#)

A. Parents have several options to address this issue, including the following. 1. They can ask the ToR for support. 2. They can use some of their curriculum budget on a tutor or class through a community partner. 3. If the ToR approves, they can enroll their student in a math class at a local Community College.