



**Subject:** Student Admissions and Public Random Drawing (“Lottery”)

**Effective Date:** June 7, 2018

**Revised Date:** March 11, 2021

**Approved By:** Board of Directors

**Policy:** 5017.1

*Governing Law : Admission policy and procedures, consistent with [Education Code Section 47605.6] subdivision (e). Education Code Section 47605.6(b)(5)(M).*

All students who wish to attend the Charter School shall be enrolled subject to capacity. If there are more applications than school capacity, enrollment, except for pupils currently enrolled in the program, shall be determined by public random drawing (“lottery”), conducted in accordance with the procedures described below.

This board policy only goes into effect if the entire charter school is at its capped enrollment. This policy does not go into effect for single program waitlists.

A lottery will be held in the spring semester of each year when there are more applications than school capacity. Information about the date, time and location of the lottery will be posted on the SCS website, in public notices, and will be available by calling the number that will be included on the Student Application or the SCS website.

The Charter staff strongly encourages all potential applicants to review the school’s charter and the homeschool and academy parent and student handbooks (available on the SCS website), and published information regarding the school prior to submitting an application.

In the case that the procedures herein do not cover a situation that arises during the admissions and enrollment process, the Superintendent will take any additional steps necessary to execute the admissions and enrollment process.

**Administrative Regulations**  
**Charter Document**  
**Element H: Admissions Policies and Procedures**

**Admission Requirements**

VSCS actively recruits a diverse student population from San Diego County and surrounding contiguous counties eligible for enrollment under state law. The Charter School will be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, and all other operations, and will not charge tuition.

VSCS shall admit all pupils who wish to attend the charter school. No test or assessment shall be administered to students prior to acceptance and enrollment into the charter school. VSCS will comply with all laws establishing minimum and maximum age for public school attendance in charter schools. Admission, except in the case of a public random drawing, shall not be determined by the place of residence of the pupil or his or her parent or legal guardian within the state, unless required by Education Code Section 51747.3.

Students admitted to VSCS must understand and value the school's mission and be committed to the school's instructional and operational philosophy. Admission to any VSCS program shall be open to any resident of San Diego County or the contiguous counties. Prospective students and their parents will be briefed regarding VSCS's instructional and operational philosophy and will be informed of any student related policies. VSCS has established an annual recruiting and admissions cycle which shall include: (1) outreach and marketing, (2) orientation sessions for parents and students, (3) an admissions application period, (4) an admissions lottery if necessary, and (5) enrollment.

VSCS may enroll students from a wide geographic area that includes San Diego, Riverside, Orange, and Imperial Counties. Applications will be accepted during a publicly advertised open application period each year for enrollment in the following school year. Following the open enrollment period each year, applications shall be counted to determine whether any grade level has received more applications than availability. In the event that the number of students who wish to attend VSCS exceeds the charter school's capacity, a public random lottery will be used to determine those selected to attend, with the exception of existing students, who are guaranteed admission in the following school year. Admission preference in the case of a public random drawing shall be granted in the following order: 1) homeless and foster youth, 2)

siblings of current students, 3) children of currently employed VCSC staff, and 4) residents of the District.

### **Lottery Procedures**

The lottery will be led by the superintendent or designee. The lottery will be open to the public; however, families are not required to be present at the time of the drawing to be eligible for admission.

Numbers, each representing an application submitted to VSCS, will be placed on cards that are of equal size and shape, grouped by priority. The cards will indicate if the applying student has any siblings that are applying for admission the same year. The name on each card will be read as it is placed into a container or lottery device that will randomly mix the cards. The person leading the lottery will draw the cards one at a time at random and read the name on the card. As each card is pulled it will be posted visibly on a display in the order it was chosen. Names will be given a numerical ranking based on the order they were chosen. The drawing will continue until all cards have been drawn and all names have been assigned a numerical ranking. These rankings will be recorded in an electronic database that will be double-checked by the lottery official.

Separate lotteries shall be conducted for each grade and program in which there are fewer vacancies than pupils interested in attending. All lotteries shall take place on the same day in a single location. Lotteries will be conducted in ascending order beginning with the lowest applicable grade level. The first lottery will consist of foster and homeless youth, based on student application information. If additional spaces are available, a second lottery consisting of siblings of current students will occur. If additional spaces are still available then a third lottery will occur consisting of children of currently employed VSCS staff. If, after all three lotteries are complete, there are additional spaces available then a fourth lottery will be held consisting of students who are residents of the District.

Due to preference given to siblings of VSCS students, if a card is drawn that indicates a sibling (of any grade) is also applying, the sibling will also be assigned the next available numerical ranking for the appropriate grade level.

If an applicant drawn during the process described above has a sibling(s) who has (have) also applied for admission during the current enrollment period and for the same grade level, that sibling(s) will be offered the next available slot(s) or if no such slot(s) remain they will be placed in the first available slot(s) on the appropriate waiting list. If maximum capacity has been

reached in a particular grade level and the applicant drawn in the lottery has a twin, triplet, or other siblings of a multiple birth that has also submitted a timely application, enrollment shall be determined on a case-by-case basis as determined by the superintendent. If an applicant drawn during the process described above has a sibling(s) who has (have) also applied for admission during the current enrollment period and for a different grade level which has already been assigned slots, that sibling(s) will be offered an open slot, if available, or placed in the first available slot(s) on the appropriate waiting list. If an applicant drawn during the process described above has a sibling(s) who has (have) also applied for admission during the current enrollment period and for a different grade level which has not yet been assigned slots, that sibling(s) will be given sibling preference (as defined above) at the time of assignment of slots for their grade level. At no time will children of staff, board members, or founders exceed 10% of the total enrollment.

### **Waiting List**

Once maximum enrollment is reached, the remaining names will be placed on a waiting list in the order received. If vacancies occur during the school year, the vacancies may be filled according to the waiting list, which will be prioritized in the same manner described in the previous section according to rank on the list of preferences.

Families will be immediately notified by phone call or email of their placement on the waiting list within two weeks of the lottery. Families may call the main office to track their status on the waiting list.

Students who are not offered seats for the academic school year for which the lottery was held will remain on the waiting list until the end of that academic school year unless otherwise requested in writing by the parent to be removed. Students who remain on the waiting list at the end of the academic year will be required to enter the lottery again for the next school year. In no circumstance will a waitlist carry over to the following school year. Application documents for those not enrolled in the charter will be entered into the student information system as never attended and retained per state guidelines.

VSCS and the SBE mutually agree that the preferences in the public random drawing as listed above are consistent with Education Code Section 47605(d)(2) and applicable federal law and non-regulatory guidance; however, should the preferences require modification in order to meet requirements of the Public Charter Schools Grant Program (PCSGP), such modifications may be made at VSCS's discretion without any need to materially revise the charter as long as

such modifications are consistent with the law and written notice is provided by VSCS to the SBE.

Students with exceptional needs may not be denied admission to VSCS solely due to missing copies of IEP or 504 plans, or due to the nature, extent, or severity of his or her disability or due to the student's request for, or actual need for, special education services.

Prior to enrollment, all parents must sign a parent/student contract regarding VSCS outcomes, philosophy, program, and any other applicable requirements.

Students who are enrolled in VSCS may not be concurrently enrolled in a private school.