

ENROLLMENT PLAN

LAKE WALES CHARTER SCHOOLS

Lake Wales Charter Schools (LWCS) is a public charter school system comprising seven charter schools that serve students from pre-Kindergarten through grade 12. The Lake Wales Charter School System commits to serve students of the Greater Lake Wales community. Priority is given to all applications from families residing in the Greater Lake Wales area. LWCS uses an In-Zone and Out-of-Zone process. The LWCS system fulfills its statutory and contractual duty to grant priority enrollment to residents of the greater Lake Wales area (In-Zone). The LWCS system complies with Florida's Controlled Open Enrollment law by accepting students from outside the Greater Lake Wales area for any vacant seats that may exist in the charter system.

I. Definitions.

Greater Lake Wales Area: The Greater Lake Wales Area shall mean the geographic attendance zones that existed in 2004 for Lake Wales High School, Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, Janie Howard Wilson Elementary, and Polk Avenue Elementary schools, as recognized by Polk County Public Schools ("PCPS") at the time of charter conversion. Zip code boundaries are used solely as an administrative reference to reflect those historical zones and shall not expand or restrict the original attendance boundaries. Each school will maintain on file the 2004 attendance-zone map approved by PCPS for verification.

In- Zone: In-Zone refers to students with a primary residential address within the Greater Lake Wales Area.

Out-of-Zone: Out-of-Zone refers to students with a primary residential address outside of the Greater Lake Wales Area

II. Priority Enrollment for Greater Lake Wales Area Applicants (In-Zone)

A. Conversion Schools; Statutory Rights.

By vote of parents and teachers, Lake Wales High School and Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, Janie Howard Wilson Elementary , and Polk Avenue Elementary schools were converted to charter schools. Enrollment for conversion schools is controlled by Fla. Stat. §1002.(33)(10)(c) stating that "enrollment preference shall be given to students who would have otherwise attended that public school." The students who "would have otherwise attended" each of those public schools are those residing in the Greater Lake Wales Area. Based on the growth in our community, Greater Lake Wales residents will have priority enrollment based on zip codes as indicated by the Local Postmaster and the City of Lake Wales Planning and Zoning. Zip codes that are In-Zone will be listed on the application.

B. Start-Up Schools; Contractual Rights.

With approval from the Polk County Public Schools (PCPS), LWCS created "start-up" middle schools known as Edward W. Bok Academy (Bok South) and Edward W. Bok Academy North (Bok North). Start-up charter schools are equivalent to PCPS magnet schools and do not have attendance zones. The Bok North charter grants a contractual priority to Lake Wales residents as follows:

"The School may provide enrollment preferences as allowed for in section 1002.33(10), Florida Statutes. Further, the School may limit the enrollment process to target specific student populations as set forth in section 1002.33(10)(e), Florida Statutes. For the term of this contract, the targeted student population will be those students residing within the Greater Lake Wales area. No students living outside of the Greater Lake Wales area shall be accepted to the school until 100% of the students living within the Greater Lake Wales area are accepted."

The Bok South charter did not grant such a priority. However, LWCS stated that if PCPS authorized Bok North with its additional seats for Lake Wales students, LWCS would agree to apply the same provisions and priorities to Bok South. The Bok South charter states:

"The parties agree that the primary community to be served by this Charter School is to be the Lake Wales community as per the Charter application."

C. Preferences Granted by Statute.

After enrolling students who would have otherwise attended a school (see above), LWCS, as allowed by Fla. Stat. §1002.33(10)(d), may give preference to the following student populations:

1. Students who are siblings of a student enrolled in the charter school;
2. Students who are the children of the members of the governing board of the charter school system;
3. Students who are the children of an employee of the charter school and/or the charter school system;
4. Students who have successfully completed a voluntary pre-K education program provided by the charter school or the charter school's governing board during the previous year;
5. Students who are the children of an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces; and
6. Students who attended or are assigned to failing schools pursuant to s. 1002.38(2).

7. Students of a safe-school officer, as defined in s. 1006.12 of a charter school.

D. Applicants Outside of the Greater Lake Wales Area (Out-of-Zone)

LWCS accepts applications for enrollment from Out-of-Zone students. Out-of Zone students will be considered once all In-Zone students have been accepted. The application window is the same for In-Zone and Out-of-Zone students as established by the LWCS superintendent.

E. Application Deadlines.

Every new student to a charter school must apply on time in order to be enrolled. Fla. Stat. §1002.33(10)(b). Late and incomplete applications are at risk of not being accepted. The application window for In-Zone and Out-of-Zone is during the timeframe established by the superintendent for all LWCS. Kindergarten applications will be accepted during the LWCS application window. Dates and deadlines will be published on lwcharterschools.com as well as individual charter school websites, newsletters, and communications.

III. Controlled Open Enrollment

After In-Zone and Out-of-Zone applications have been accepted, LWCS will comply with the requirements of the state's Controlled Open Enrollment law found at Fla. Stat. §1002.31. The law states that a charter school shall allow a parent from any school district in the state whose child is not subject to a current expulsion or suspension, to enroll his or her child in, and transport his or her child to, any charter school that has not reached capacity, subject to the maximum class size requirements in the Florida Statutes and Florida Constitution. The law also allows a charter school the option of providing transportation to such open enrollment students.

Approved applicants will be notified in writing once the Controlled Open Enrollment period ends. The approval letter must be taken to the assigned school within 14 calendar days to accept the seat.

Each year, consistent with the charter contracts of each Lake Wales Charter School and Section 5.4 of the Florida Model Charter Contract, the LWCS Governing Board shall determine and report the annual enrollment capacity of each charter school to Polk County Public Schools no later than March 1. This capacity determination shall be coordinated with the Sponsor's controlled open enrollment calendar and published on the LWCS website prior to the start of the District's controlled open enrollment application window, in accordance with sections 1002.31(5) and 1002.33(10)(h), Florida Statutes.

IV. Transportation

Pursuant to section 1002.33(20)(c), Florida Statutes, LWCS agrees to provide for transportation of In-Zone students consistent with the requirements of Chapter 1006, Florida Statutes. LWCS will provide transportation for all students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter school. LWCS governing board may, at its discretion, provide transportation to students outside of the “reasonable distance” area.