

Memorandum

To: EES Parents (current and prospective), staff, and community
From: Jason E. Glass, Superintendent, Eagle County Schools
Re: Edwards Area Open Enrollment Process/Lottery
Date: 12.13.16

Background

Since the inception of the Dual Language Immersion model at Edwards Elementary School (EES), the school has relied on a lottery to match the number of native English speaking and native Spanish speaking students.

While this process has worked relatively well for EES, it has also resulted in several families within the EES attendance boundary being excluded from the school when a matched pair did not exist. Further, while EES's lottery is not the cause, it has contributed to a chaotic and dysfunctional system of school choice in Edwards and other up-valley communities.

With numerous other up-valley schools now also adopting the Dual Language Immersion program (Avon, June Creek, Homestake Peak are already implementing Dual Language, Red Sandstone is in the planning phase), the necessity of a matched pair language lottery has become unnecessary.

Changing Enrollment Practices

For the 2017-18 school year, EES will change its enrollment practices to match all the other district neighborhood elementary schools, beginning with the incoming Kindergarten class.

Specifically, all entering Kindergarten students residing within the EES boundary will be automatically allowed entry into the school, as this is their neighborhood school. Families seeking to enroll in EES from areas outside the EES boundary may request this through the district's regular Open Enrollment process, which runs from **January 3 to February 17, 2017**. Please check the Eagle County Schools' website for more information on Kindergarten registration and open enrollment later in December.

Kindergarten students from outside the EES attendance area will be considered for enrollment into the school based on space available and staffing capacity at the school, in accordance with state law. As is the case with all the other district schools, if there is a shortage of spaces to requests, a lottery will be used to determine which students are admitted. This procedure will only be used in the event of more students requesting enrollment than there are spaces available and should not be confused with the previous lottery system which matched native English and native Spanish speaking students.

Note that this change only impacts the incoming Kindergarten class of 2017 and future classes going forward. Other students in higher grades are on a waitlist and EES will continue to use historical matched pair system until students age out of the school and are replaced with grades where the neighborhood school/open enrollment model is used. Students wishing to enroll in grades higher than Kindergarten for 2017-18 may request addition to the wait list for their grade at the school.

Closing

I look forward to implementing the change to the EES enrollment system for the 2017-18 school year. The Board of Education is also considering other boundary and configuration changes for schools for 2018-19, or later. We will hold those conversations in February of 2017 and more information on that will be distributed in a separate communication.

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.