

ASSEMBLY, No. 2038

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Modifies procedures for student enrollment in charter school to require use of lottery selection process; requires charter school admission policy to seek enrollment of student demographics of charter school district of residence.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning charter school student enrollment and
2 amending P.L.1995, c.426.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 8 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-8) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 8. a. Preference for enrollment in a charter school shall be
10 given to students who reside in the [school district in which the
11 charter school is located. If there are more applications to enroll in
12 the charter school than there are spaces available, the] charter
13 school district of residence as approved by the commissioner. A
14 charter school shall select students to attend [using a random
15 selection process] through a lottery. The name of each student who
16 is enrolled in the charter school district of residence shall be placed
17 in the lottery. In the event that the parents or guardians of a student
18 who is selected for admission to the charter school through the
19 lottery determine not to enroll the student in the charter school, then
20 the charter school shall fill that enrollment space with a student
21 from the waiting list maintained pursuant to subsection g. of this
22 section.

23 A charter school shall not charge tuition to students [who reside
24 in the district].

25 b. A charter school shall allow any student who was enrolled in
26 the school in the immediately preceding school year to enroll in the
27 charter school in the appropriate grade unless the appropriate grade
28 is not offered at the charter school.

29 c. A charter school may give enrollment priority to a sibling of
30 a student enrolled in the charter school.

31 d. If available space permits, a charter school may enroll non-
32 resident students. The terms and condition of the enrollment shall
33 be outlined in the school's charter and approved by the
34 commissioner.

35 e. The admission policy of the charter school shall, to the
36 maximum extent practicable, seek the enrollment of [a cross section
37 of the community's school age population including racial and] the
38 student demographics of the charter school district of residence
39 including race, ethnicity, eligibility for the federal free lunch
40 program, eligibility for the federal reduced price lunch program,
41 limited English proficient students, special education services
42 students in respective special education classifications, and other
43 appropriate academic factors.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

g. A charter school shall maintain a waiting list for admission to the school and shall annually submit the number and demographics of students, consistent with subsection f. of this section, on the waiting list to the commissioner. The Department of Education and the charter school shall post the number on their websites and shall update the number as appropriate.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

This bill modifies the selection process for student enrollment in a charter school. Under the bill, students will be selected for enrollment through a lottery. The name of each student who is enrolled in the charter school district of residence will be placed in the lottery. If the parent or guardian of a student who is selected through the lottery decides not to enroll the student, the charter school will fill that enrollment space with a student from the school's waiting list. Under current law, a random selection process for charter school enrollment is used only if there are more applicants than there are openings in the charter school.

Lastly, the bill requires a charter school to maintain a waiting list for admission and to annually submit the number and demographics of students on the waiting list to the commissioner. The Department of Education and the charter school will post the number on their websites.