

When and how will I know if my child was accepted by a school?

Letters stating the status of your child's application will be mailed to your address on March 24, 2016 or made available in your online parent dashboard on or after 4 p.m. on March 24, 2016. If you have applied to multiple schools, you will receive notifications from different schools at different times up to midnight or early Friday morning.

I have questions about my child's magnet status, but HISD offices are closed until Monday. What should I do?

Please review your child's magnet status carefully and read through this FAQ to see if your question has been answered. If not, please send an email to magnet@houstonisd.org or call the magnet office at (713) 556-6947 on Monday during office hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

My child got into a magnet school on my list, and I would like to accept the seat. What should I do next?

Accept the offered seat either online (for parents who submitted an online application) or in person. Deliver, in person, proof of current residence (a gas, water, electric bill or copy of a lease agreement) and proof of age (if your child is entering pre-K or kindergarten). The school will be able to provide a copy of an entrance agreement that you will be required to sign. For offers received before April 6, 2016, the deadline for completing this paperwork and delivering it to the school is April 8, 2016. Failure to meet the deadline can result in the loss of the offer. For offers on or after April 6, 2016, parents will have three school days to deliver the required documents to secure the seat.

My child got into our second or third choice but applied to several other schools. What happens to the lower-ranked choices?

Schools ranked lower than the highest one in which a student has been accepted are released and no longer available to the student.

What if I have accepted a seat at one school, but another school calls me from the wait list. May I accept this second school?

Yes, you will have three school days from the date of the offered seat in which to bring to the school whose offer you want to accept proof of current residence (a gas, water, electric bill or copy of a lease agreement) and proof of age (if your child is entering pre-K or kindergarten). The school will be able to provide you a copy of an entrance agreement that you will be required to sign and complete the campus enrollment process.

If I accept my third-choice school, for example, but am wait-listed for my top two choices, does that mean my child will lose his/her spot on those top two waiting lists?

No, wait-list rankings for all higher-priority schools are maintained. Only schools ranked lower than the highest one in which a student has been accepted are released.

What if my child gets into a school I ranked first in my list, but I am interested in a school that I ranked lower? Can I get my child on the waiting list of a school I originally ranked lower?

Only if there is space available at the lower-ranked school. You cannot hold two seats at the same time and would need to decline the higher-ranked choice in order to accept the lower-ranked school, but you will first need to confirm with that school that there is a spot for you. You will have three school days from the date of the lower-ranked offer in which to respond and to deliver any required documentation to the lower-ranked school.

My child is on the wait list for all magnet schools on my list. What should I do next?

Please be patient. The wait list will move up and down. Stay alert for changes in application status throughout the summer by visiting the [magnet status page](#). You can also submit an application to programs that still have spaces available. Learn more about campuses with space available at the annual School Choice Fair. This event will take place from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 23, at the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center (4400 West 18th Street, 77092).

My status for a particular school says “Qualified Pending,” “Not Placed” or “Dropped/Released.” What do these mean, and what are my next steps?

Below is a brief explanation of terms. Please reach out to the specific school or to the Office of School Choice for further details:

Status	Meaning	Next Steps	Timeline
Offered Seat For offers before April 6, 2016	Your child qualified for this program and the school is offering a seat in its Magnet program for the 2016-2017 school year.	Accept the offered seat either online (for parents that submitted an online application) or in person at the school that has offered the seat.	Deadline: April 8, 2016
Offered Seat For offers on or after April 6, 2016		Deliver, in person, the documents listed above and sign the entrance agreement. Complete the campus enrollment process.	Failure to do so can result in the loss of the offer. After April 8, 2016 Deadline: 3 school days
Waitlist	Your child has qualified and has been placed on the wait list. The number indicates the current place on the wait list.	If you wish to stay on the wait list no action is required. You can contact the school for updates of your waitlist number.	August 12, 2016.
(Qualified Pending)	Because your child still needs to test but has otherwise met all the requirements for this Vanguard program, he or she was entered into the lottery. The school is offering a seat or has placed you on the wait list for the 2016-2017 school year, conditional upon receiving a high enough score for the missing test.	For applicants with no email address, the coordinator for this school will attempt to call you to discuss your options. If for some reason, you do not hear from them, please call them.	August 12, 2016
Not Placed	(Not Qualified) Your child did not meet the qualification guidelines for this specific program.	For information on programs that still have space available, contact us at (713) 556-6947.	August 12, 2016

	(In processing) Your application was not completed or you live outside the HISD boundary or your application was not received by December 18, 2015.	If you provide missing information, the application can be considered subject to space availability – if you live outside the HISD boundary your completed application will be considered after May 31.	August 12, 2016
	(Qualified) You have met the qualifications for this program, but you live outside the HISD boundary.	Your application will be considered after May 31.	August 12, 2016
Dropped/Released	Once offered a seat into a program, all of a student’s lesser-ranked applications, including any other offered seats, are “dropped” or “released”, so that those spots may be offered to other students.	No Action is needed	August 12, 2016

What is sibling priority?

It is HISD policy that children who already have siblings attending a magnet school will enjoy limited priority in the application process for “entry grades” to that school. Entry grades are usually defined as the lowest grade level in each program open to enrollment by all students. For elementary programs this usually means kindergarten because at most magnet schools, pre-K is not part of the magnet program. (However, language and Montessori magnet programs consider pre-K an entry grade. Those programs include the Arabic Immersion School, Mandarin Chinese Immersion School, Garden Oaks Montessori, Wilson Montessori, Blackshear Montessori, Wharton Dual Language, and Helms Dual Language. Currently enrolled pre-K students do not need to reapply for kindergarten at these programs.) For middle schools, it is 6th grade and for high schools it is 9th grade. Up to 25% of available slots will be awarded first to students who have a sibling already attending the same program. If there are more students with siblings than the 25% of spaces allowed, they will be placed at the top of the wait list in the relative order they were selected in the lottery. If two siblings apply for an entry grade-level program (but do not have another, attending sibling) they are treated the same as any other applicant. However, if one is offered a place, the other is moved up the wait list and placed among other siblings also on the wait list.

What is the multiple birth option?

Parents of qualifying twins, triplets, etc., applying for these children to attend the same magnet program may select to have these children treated as all other siblings (the default) or they may opt to have all the children receive the same lottery position. This means that all children end up in the same situation, all offered a seat or all placed on the wait list. If they are on a wait list, they will not be offered seats until there is room for all of them.

My student is on a wait list. As time goes by, he/she sometimes move down the wait list. That doesn't seem fair – it appears someone is skipping up above me.

Normally, the only changes in place to a student on the wait list should be moves upward. However, in the case of a student who may have been lower down the list whose brother or sister is accepted, that child will be moved up the wait list, and may skip above your child. (Please see the explanation in the item about sibling priority.)

What if my child qualifies as G/T, but I decide not to enroll in the Vanguard (G/T) Magnet program. Does the child lose the G/T identification?

Once a student has been identified as G/T by HISD, he/she is eligible for Vanguard (G/T) services at any school in which he/she eventually enrolls, including his/her zoned school and other types of Magnet programs.

What if my child is not accepted into a magnet program I want him or her to attend, or I believe there is a mistake on my magnet results?

Even if some Magnet programs fill up completely, there are usually similar programs at other schools which will still have room. Additionally, many non-Magnet programs provide quality opportunities for students. You may meet with the school's Magnet coordinator or administrator to discuss the decision. If you have specific concerns about the way your child's application was handled or you feel that procedures were not followed, you may file an appeal with the Office of School Choice by e-mailing OSC@houstonisd.org and detailing your concerns.

I can't remember my login/password for my parent dashboard.

If you forgot your password, go to <https://hisdchoice.com/apply/forgot.php> to have a new one emailed to you. If you forgot your login, go to <https://hisdchoice.com/recommendations/>

I applied by mail and have not received a magnet letter. What should I do?

Letters were mailed on March 24, so please allow the U.S. mail a couple of days to make delivery. If you have not received a magnet letter by March 30, 2016, contact magnet@houstonisd.org or call the magnet department at (713)-556-6947.

I am experiencing problems with the HISD website and dashboard. What should I do?

Send an email to magnet@houstonisd.org or call the magnet office at (713) 556-6947 explaining in detail the issues you are having.

May I visit a school again before I make a final decision?

We recommend that you contact the school's magnet coordinator to see what times are available. If you have been offered a seat at this school, please remember that there is a deadline to secure the seat.

Is there still time to consider other magnet schools?

Yes, applications may be submitted to schools with space available during Phase II (December 19, 2015 – May 31, 2016). Our Spring School Choice Fair is 9 a.m.-noon April 23, 2016 at the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center. The address is 4400 West 18th St., Houston, Texas, 77092. Only schools with space will be in attendance.

If I live out of the HISD attendance district and I applied to a magnet school, what should I do?

Out of district applications are only considered after June 1, 2016; however, restrictions may apply. Out of district applicants are considered if no in-district applicants remain. HISD employees who live outside the HISD attendance district are considered to be in-district residents for the purposes of Magnet.

Is there still time to apply to a magnet school if I am in or out of the district?

Yes, however restrictions may apply. Out of district applications will be considered beginning June 1, 2016. Applications from eligible HISD-resident students will be considered first. When no further eligible HISD-resident student applications remain, out of district eligible students will be considered in the order their applications were submitted. For Magnet-only programs (schools that do not have an attendance zone) such as the High School for Performing and Visual Arts, out of district magnet transfers must be approved by the superintendent of schools and tuition may be required.

What happens if my child has a place in a magnet program but misses the first day of school?

If there is an extenuating circumstance, please contact the magnet coordinator at the school or the magnet office at magnet@houstonisd.org or call the magnet office at (713) 556-6947. Any student with an approved transfer (e.g., magnet) who does not attend his or her school on the first day of school is no longer guaranteed a spot at that school. When they arrive to enroll, if space is still available, their transfer will be accepted. If there is no longer any space, they will have lost their space and will need to enroll at their zoned school or another program with space. The rationale behind this rule is that we do not want to turn away zoned students because we are saving space for someone who may or may not come to the school. If the school is not over-crowded and space is available, all students wanting to attend will be able to do so.

What if my child has trouble with the magnet program we chose?

Upon entering a magnet program, all students and parents will sign an Entrance Agreement. This details the expectations for the student in the program. If students fail to meet the expectations, they may be placed on probation, given a growth plan, or eventually removed from the program if they do not show progress. A recommendation from the growth plan committee could result in a student losing his or her place in this magnet program at the end of the year and returning to their zoned or another choice school at the beginning of the next school year.

Where can I get more information?

Visit the Office of School Choice website at www.houstonisd.org/magnet or call the (713) 556-6947. Find out more about HISD Vanguard (G/T) programs by calling the Advanced Academics Department at (713) 556-6954.