

Admissions and Enrollment Policy

Region(s): CA

Rocketship schools are free, open-enrollment public schools for California children who meet our age and residence requirements, as further described below. This policy covers our admissions assurances; procedures for applications, lottery, and wait list; and registration process, including age and residency requirements.

I. Admissions Assurances

All RPS schools shall be open enrollment and tuition-free charter public schools and shall admit all pupils who wish to attend. No test or assessment shall be administered to students prior to acceptance and enrollment into an RPS school. RPS 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.

Pursuant to Education Code 47605(d), Rocketship shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all operations, shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220 (actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics).

Pursuant to Education Code 47605(d)(4), Rocketship shall not discourage a pupil from enrolling or seeking to enroll in the charter school for any reason, including, but not limited to, academic performance of the pupil or because the pupil exhibits any of the following characteristics: pupils with disabilities, academically low-achieving pupils, English learners, neglected or delinquent pupils, homeless pupils, or pupils who are economically disadvantaged, as determined by eligibility for any free or reduced-price meal program, foster youth, or pupils based on nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Rocketship shall not request a pupil's records or require a parent, guardian, or pupil to submit the pupil's records to the charter school before enrollment. Rocketship shall not encourage a pupil currently attending the charter school to disenroll from the charter school or transfer to another school for any reason, including, but not limited to, academic performance of the pupil or because the pupil exhibits any of the characteristics described in Education Code 47605(d)(2).

Pursuant to Education Code 47605(d)(2)(B)(iv), parental volunteer hours shall NOT be required as a condition for admission or continued enrollment.

II. Application and Public Random Drawing

Rocketship will accept applications during a publicly-advertised open application period each year for enrollment in the following school year. Following the open application period each year, applications will be counted to determine whether any grade level has received more applications than availability.

In this event that this occurs, each Rocketship school in California will hold a public random drawing to determine enrollment for the impacted grade level, with the exception of existing students, who are guaranteed enrollment in the following school year.

Enrollment preferences in the case of a public random drawing depend on the type of charter that each school holds and will be determined in accordance with the school's charter. For a list of each school's current admissions preferences, please see Appendix A.

Students qualifying for more than one preference group will be considered part of the highest preference in which they qualify.

Public random drawing rules, deadlines, dates and times will be communicated on Rocketship's website. Public notice for the date and time of the public random drawing will also be posted once the application deadline has passed. Rocketship will also inform parents of all applicants and all interested parties of the rules to be followed during the public random drawing process via mail or email at least two weeks prior to the lottery date.

Rocketship will likely conduct the public random drawing in the late winter/early spring of the academic year prior to the academic year for which the student is applying. Rocketship shall conduct one public random drawing in one location. The Board of Directors will take all necessary efforts to ensure public random drawing procedures are fairly executed. Lottery spaces are pulled in order of grade level by the designated lottery official. Separate drawings shall be conducted for each grade in which there are fewer vacancies than students interested in attending.

The Rocketship application will include all Rocketship schools in California. Families are asked to select the particular Rocketship schools in which they are interested, and then rank those selections in order of preference.

III. Wait List

At the conclusion of the public random drawing, Rocketship will notify the families of all applicants to inform them of their acceptance status. All students who were not granted admission due to capacity will be given the option to put their name on a wait list in the order according to their draw in the public

random drawing. This wait list will allow students the option of enrollment in the case of an opening during the school year. Students will be placed on the wait lists for all schools that they ranked in their Rocketship application. Once on the wait list, the student will remain until he/she is offered a spot in the school or the parent/guardian confirms in writing that the student no longer wishes to remain on the wait list. The wait list will not carry over from year to year.

If families from the wait list are offered a position, they must accept that position within two weeks. If a family declines or fails to respond within two weeks from the date of the offer, the child may be removed from the wait list or placed at the bottom of the wait list. Once a student accepts an offer, he/she will be removed from any wait lists of Rocketship schools that he/she ranked lower during the application process.

If a former Rocketship student who is withdrawn from a school seeks to re-enroll in the same school, and that school is at capacity for the student's grade level, that student shall be added to the wait list in the same manner as any other student seeking enrollment.

IV. Enrollment

During the application process, parents are expected to correctly identify their child's age and grade level in both the current (where applicable) and upcoming school year. Upon acceptance to Rocketship, all students will be enrolled in the next consecutive grade level that follows their current grade level. Students will be admitted to Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and first grade only in accordance with the statutory age requirements described below in this policy. Schools will typically not make any retention or promotion decisions during the enrollment process. Parents are not permitted to unilaterally make any retention or promotion decisions for their child during the application process.

A student who has been expelled from another educational institution may be admitted to a Rocketship school in the discretion of the school Principal on a case-by-case basis, as further described in Rocketship's Suspension and Expulsion Policy.

No student may concurrently attend a private school that charges the student's family for tuition.

V. Registration Process

Upon selection for admission pursuant to public random drawing, the registration process will include the following:

- Proof of Immunization;
- Home Language Survey;
- Completion of Emergency Medical Information Form
- Proof of minimum age requirements (i.e. birth certificate), further described below;
- Proof of residency in the State of California (i.e. driver's license, copy of a lease, utility bill showing address of residence).

Rocketship feels strongly that success for students requires a commitment, from both students and parents, to the school's mission and vision. During the registration process, all parents/guardians will be

asked to sign a commitment letter indicating that they understand Rocketship philosophy, program, and volunteer policies. Students will not be denied admission or dis-enrolled for a parent/guardian's failure to sign the commitment letter.

VI. Age Requirements

Pursuant to Ed Code § 48000(a), all students entering kindergarten at Rocketship must be five years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year. All students entering Transitional Kindergarten must have their fifth birthday between September 2 and December 2 of the current school year. In limited circumstances, exceptions may be made, but only in accordance with Rocketship's Early Admittance to Kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten Policy. Students shall not attend more than two years of a combination of Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten.

All students must be at least age six by September 1 of the school year in which he/she seeks enrollment in first grade, with limited exceptions in accordance with California law.

VII. Student Withdrawals

In accordance with Ed Code § 47605(d)(3), if a student is expelled or leaves Rocketship without completing the school year for any reason, Rocketship will notify the superintendent of the school district of the student's last known address within 30 days. Upon request, Rocketship will also provide that school district with a copy of the student's cumulative record, including a transcript of grades and health information.

Note that some Rocketship schools in California may also be required to notify the charter authorizer under the existing MOU.

Approved by Rocketship Education Board of Directors, Inc. 8/30/2016

Revised: 7/1/2020

Appendix A – Admissions Preferences at Rocketship California Schools

47605 (District) charters

Rocketship Mateo Sheedy

1. Siblings of RMS students
2. Children of the paid staff of RMS (not to exceed 10%)
3. Residents of the San Jose Unified School District
4. Other California residents

Rocketship Si Se Puede

1. Siblings of RSSP students
2. Children of the paid staff of RSSP (not to exceed 10%)
3. Residents of the Alum Rock Union School District
4. Other California residents

Rocketship Rising Stars

1. Siblings of RRS students
2. Children of the paid staff of RRS (not to exceed 10%)
3. Children who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals (FRPM)*
4. Residents of the Franklin McKinley School District
5. Other California residents

Rocketship Mosaic

1. Siblings of ROMO students
2. Children of the paid staff of ROMO (not to exceed 10%)
3. Residents of the Franklin McKinley School District
4. Other California residents

Rocketship Spark

1. Siblings of RSK students
2. Children of the paid staff of RSK (not to exceed 10%)
3. Residents of the Franklin McKinley School District
4. Other California residents

Rocketship Redwood City

1. Siblings of RRWC students
2. Children of the paid staff of RRWC (not to exceed 10%)
3. Residents of the Redwood City School District
4. Other California residents

Rocketship Futuro

1. Residents of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District
2. Siblings of RFA students
3. Children of the paid staff of RFA (not to exceed 10%)
4. Other California residents

Rocketship Delta Prep

1. Residents of the Antioch Unified School District
2. Siblings of RDL students
3. Children of the paid staff of RFA (not to exceed 10%)
4. Other California residents

47605.6 (Countrywide) Charters

Rocketship Los Suenos, Rocketship Discovery Prep, Rocketship Brilliant Minds, Rocketship Alma, Rocketship Fuerza

1. Siblings of students at the school
2. Children of the paid staff of the school (not to exceed 10%)
3. Children who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals (FRPM)*
4. Residents of Santa Clara County
5. Other California residents

*subject to authorizer approval upon charter renewal