

Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter School

Enrollment Policy – 2026–2027 School Year

I. Mission Alignment

HISTCS provides a culturally grounded, academically rigorous education that is open to all eligible students in Pennsylvania, with a focus on equitable access and inclusion.

II. Open Enrollment Commitment

HISTCS is a public charter school open to all Pennsylvania residents. Per Pennsylvania Charter School Law, priority is given to applicants residing within the School District of Philadelphia. HISTCS does not discriminate based on race, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, disability, or any protected classification under the law.

III. Enrollment Calendar

Milestone	Date
Application Period Opens	Thursday, December 5, 2025
Application Deadline	Wednesday, January 14, 2026
Randomized Lottery (if needed)	Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 6 PM
Notification of Results	By Friday, January 23, 2026
Deadline to Accept Enrollment Offer	By Friday, January 30, 2026

IV. Randomized Lottery

When the number of applications exceeds available seats in any grade level, HISTCS will conduct a randomized lottery to determine student placement.

Each complete application submitted by the posted deadline will be assigned a randomly generated number using a neutral lottery system. The lottery will be held publicly during a scheduled session, either in person or virtually, and will be conducted under the oversight of school leadership with documentation of results.

Students will be offered enrollment in the order of their randomized selection until all available seats are filled. Remaining applicants will be placed on a waitlist in the same order in which their numbers were drawn.

V. Waitlist & Seat Notifications

Applicants not selected during the lottery will be placed on a waitlist in the order drawn.

When a seat becomes available, the family at the top of the waitlist will be notified by email and phone.

Families have five (5) business days to accept the offer before the seat is offered to the next applicant.

VI. Required Enrollment Documents

Once an offer is accepted, families must provide the following:

1. Parent/Guardian Registration Statement
2. Home Language Survey
3. Proof of Age (e.g., birth certificate or hospital record)
4. Proof of Residency (e.g., utility bill, lease, official government correspondence)
5. Immunization Records (or exemption documentation)

VII. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance

Students experiencing homelessness will be immediately enrolled even if documents such as proof of residency, immunizations, or school records are unavailable.

Waitlist order and deadlines will be waived for eligible students.

The school's McKinney-Vento Liaison will assist families in obtaining required services and supports.

VIII. Special Populations

Students with disabilities, English learners, or those requiring special services will not be denied enrollment. Required supports and services begin at the time of enrollment in accordance with applicable law.

IX. Accessibility

This policy is available on the school website and in the main office. It will be translated upon request to meet the needs of all families.

Updated August 2025

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