

# Admission & Enrollment Policy

## Intent to Return and Open Enrollment Information

- Odyssey Academy is an open enrollment public school. There is no tuition or entrance exam. For students to be eligible to attend Odyssey Academy, they must reside within one of the boundaries of the following independent school districts: Alvin ISD, Angleton ISD, Clear Creek ISD, Danbury ISD, Deer Park ISD, Dickinson ISD, Friendswood ISD, Galveston ISD, Goose Creek Consolidated ISD, High Island ISD, Hitchcock ISD, Houston ISD, La Porte ISD, Pasadena ISD, Pearland ISD, Santa Fe ISD, Texas City ISD.
- 2. Enrollment for returning Odyssey Academy students will begin the last Tuesday in January. All returning students have priority for enrollment the next school year if the returning enrollment forms are submitted no later than the last Friday in February.
- 3. Current Odyssey Academy students submitting their returning enrollment forms after the last Friday in February and before the end of open enrollment will be placed with the general public lottery for available openings and will follow the priority groupings as described below in item 5. Current Odyssey Academy students submitting their returning enrollment forms after the end of open enrollment will be required to follow the new student enrollment process.
- 4. Odyssey Academy's open enrollment period for Prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade for the general public begins the first Monday in February and ends on the next to last Friday in March. A notice will be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the community no later than the seventh day before the application deadline announcing the open-enrollment period of the school and the deadline for applications.
- 5. Odyssey Academy has four priority groupings for open-enrollment and waitlist applicants.
  - 1) Odyssey Academy board members' and staff members' children
  - Odyssey Academy students who did not submit their returning enrollment forms by the returning enrollment deadline, but did submit prior to the end of open enrollment (see item 3 above)
  - 3) Current Odyssey Academy students wishing to change campuses
  - 4) Siblings of currently enrolled Odyssey Academy students
  - 5) General public eligible applicants
- 6. During the open-enrollment period Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade available positions will be filled with acceptable applications for admission on a first come, first serve basis. Due to eligibility requirements, Prekindergarten applications will not begin to be processed until April 1<sup>st</sup> (see item 10 below).
- 7. For Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade positions, a lottery draw will be conducted on the last Wednesday of March if there are submitted acceptable applications for admission for positions that are not available. If a lottery is needed, then a waitlist will be created in the order of the

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- lottery. Any applications received after the open enrollment period will be added to the wait list in the order received.
- 8. Once selected for admission, Odyssey Academy will require all admitted applicants to submit the following information to be considered for enrollment:
  - Enrollment Application
  - Birth Certificate
  - Social Security Number or State-Approved Alternative
  - Up-to-Date Immunization Records
  - Parent/Guardian Photo ID
  - Home Language Survey
  - Discipline Questionnaire and Handbook Agreement
  - Most recent report card or progress report, if applicable
  - Most recent STAAR test results, if applicable
- 9. If Odyssey Academy's administration becomes aware that any responses are falsified, the student will automatically be withdrawn. Any student with discipline records and/or poor attendance will be reviewed by the enrollment committee.

### Prekindergarten Enrollment Process

- 10. Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, prekindergarten applicants will be sent a survey through our enrollment system requesting information on how the applicant may qualify (as noted in item 14 below).
- 11. Once the survey is returned, registrars will request documentation or schedule language testing for proof of meeting one of the qualifying criteria.
- 12. Once Prekindergarten eligibility is verified, the prekindergarten student will be offered enrollment. A prekindergarten student who does not meet eligibility requirements will be placed on a waitlist until all qualifying applicants have been processed.

#### Kindergarten and Prekindergarten Eligibility Requirements

- 13. Students wishing to enroll in Kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of that school year. For Prekindergarten eligibility requirements, please see item 12.
- 14. Eligibility requirements for our Prekindergarten programs are as follows. All applicants must be three or four years old respectively on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of that school year and be independently toilet trained. Applicants must also meet one of the six following criteria to be eligible for the Prekindergarten program:
  - Educationally disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the Federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program); or
  - Unable to speak and comprehend the English language; or
  - Homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C.S. section 11302, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child; or
  - Parent is an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or

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- Parent is a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
- Has ever been in the conservatorship (foster care) of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing.

### **Campus Information**

- 15. Odyssey Academy Galveston serves students in prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at 2412 61<sup>st</sup> Street in Galveston.
- 16. Odyssey Academy Galveston will use the following class sizes to determine the number of available openings:
  - 1) Prekindergarten will have no more than 18 students per classroom.
  - 2) Kindergarten through First grades will have no more than 20 students per classroom.
  - 3) Second through 4<sup>th</sup> grades will have no more than 22 students per classroom.
  - 4) Fifth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades will have no more than 24 students per classroom.
- 17. Odyssey Academy Texas City serves students in prekindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 10000 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway in Texas City.
- 18. Odyssey Academy Texas City will use the following class sizes to determine the number of available openings:
  - 1) Prekindergarten will have no more than 18 students per classroom.
  - 2) Kindergarten through First grades will have no more than 20 students per classroom.
  - 3) Second through 4<sup>th</sup> grades will have no more than 22 students per classroom.
  - 4) Fifth through 8<sup>th</sup> grades will have no more than 24 students per classroom.
- 19. Odyssey Academy Webster serves students in prekindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 14650 Old Galveston Road in Webster.
- 20. Odyssey Academy Webster will use the following class sizes to determine the number of available openings:
  - 1) Prekindergarten will have no more than 18 students per classroom.
  - 2) Kindergarten through First grades will have no more than 20 students per classroom.
  - 3) Second through 4<sup>th</sup> grades will have no more than 22 students per classroom.
  - 4) Fifth through 8<sup>th</sup> grades will have no more than 24 students per classroom.

#### Non-Discrimination Statement and Student Transfers

21. In accordance with TEC, 12.111(5)(a), Odyssey Academy will include in all of its policies, enrollment documents, parent/student handbook, website, and any other appropriate documents regarding the charter school, a statement that the school will not discriminate in admissions based on gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, academic ability, athletic ability, artistic ability, or the district the child would otherwise attend. Odyssey Academy reserves the right to exclude students with a documented history of a criminal offense, juvenile court adjudication, or discipline problems under TEC Subchapter A, Chapter 37.

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