

# Cape May City Elementary “A Choice School” For 2013-2014

Frequently Asked Questions  
FAQs

## What is a Public Choice School?

"Choice District" means a public school district which is authorized under the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program to open a school or schools to students from sending districts."

Interdistrict Public School Choice Program Act of 2010 18A:36B-15 <http://www.nj.gov/education/choice>

## How does a school become a Choice School?

*Cape May City Elementary School had to provide evidence for the following criteria:*

- a. descriptions of academic and extra-curriculum programs;
- b. the quality and variety of academic programs offered within the district;
- c. the provision for the creation of a parent information center;
- d. the impact on student population diversity in the district;
- e. the degree to which the program will promote or reduce educational quality in the choice district and the sending districts;
- f. the fiscal impact on the district;
- g. a description of the student application process and a timeline;
- h. teacher/student ratio;
- i. the number of student openings in each school identified by grade level which are available for selection

## When can an accepted CHOICE student start attending Cape May City Elementary School?

September, 2013

## Who can apply to be a CHOICE student in the Cape May City Elementary School?

Any student who lives in Cape May County may apply to be a Choice student.

## Is there a cost to attend a CHOICE School?

There is **no cost** for a CHOICE student to attend a CHOICE School.

## What about transportation?

- If the student lives **within 20 miles** of the Cape May City Elem. School, transportation is provided by the student's home district (DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE). There is **no transportation charge** for students living within 20 miles.
- Parents of students living within 20 miles of the Cape May City Elem. School will be paid \$848 per year if they choose to drive their child to school instead of using school bus transportation.
- Cape May City Elem. School must notify the Sending District of transportation requests by March 15, 2013.
- Parents will be notified by August 1, 2013 whether or not the Sending District is able to provide school bus transportation. If not, parents will receive \$848 to transport their child to the CMCES.
- If the student lives **over 20 miles** from the Cape May City Elementary School, the **parents/guardians must provide transportation** to and from school.
- If CHOICE students participate in After School Clubs from 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm, the parents must pick up their children. No bus transportation is provided for any students (CHOICE or Cape May City resident students) staying after school to participate in School Clubs.

## How does a student apply to be a CHOICE student?

### ***For Tier 1 Students - Public School Students (Students attending public schools)***

1. **By November 2, 2012:** **PARENTS:** It is the PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY to send the Notice of Intent to Participate in the Public School Choice Program. This notice must be received by the School District in which the student lives (also known as the Sending District or District of Residence) by Nov. 2, 2012
2. **By November 21, 2012:** Sending District (District of Residence): A Confirmation Form for Student Participation in the Public School Choice Program must be sent back to the parents prior to Nov. 21, 2012.
3. **By December 3, 2012:** **PARENTS:** It is the PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY to complete the Application for Enrollment in Cape May City Elem. School. This application must be received by the Cape May City Elem. School by Dec. 3, 2012.
4. **By December 21, 2012:** Cape May City Elem. School will send a Notice of Conditional Acceptance or Rejection of the student's application.
5. **By Jan. 4, 2013:** **PARENTS:** It is the PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY to send the Notice of Intent to Enroll in the Cape May City Elem. School for 2013-2014
6. **By Jan. 14, 2013:** Cape May City Elementary School will send the Final Enrollment Data for Public School Students to the NJ Department of Education.

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**For Tier 2 Students - Non-Public School Students (Students attending private schools) or students who are being home-schooled**

1. Same as Tier 1 above
2. Same as Tier 1 above
3. Same as Tier 1 above
4. **By Jan. 25, 2013:** Cape May City Elem. School will send a notice of Acceptance or Rejection to the student's application.
5. If accepted: **By Feb. 4, 2013,** it is the PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY to send the Notice of Intent to Enroll in the Cape May City Elem. School for 2013-2014.
6. **By Feb. 11, 2013:** Cape May City Elem. School will send the Final Enrollment Date for Non-Public School and Home-Schooled students to the NJ Dept. of Education.

**What documentation must be submitted with the student application?**

If the student has a current IEP (Special Education Plan) or a 504 Plan (Accommodation Plan), copies must be submitted with the application.

**How many seats are available at each grade level for the 2013-2014 school year in the Cape May City Elementary School?**

Available Seats For the 2013-2014 School Year	
K	3
1	3
2	7
3	1
4	2
5	1
6	3

## **Are applications accepted on a “first-come, first-served” basis?**

To ensure equal opportunity to all Cape May County students, the following procedures will be followed:

Openings in a designated school of a choice district shall be on a **space-available basis**, and if more applications are received for a designated school than there are spaces available, a lottery shall be held to determine the selection of students. Applicants whose names are not chosen in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list. Preference for enrollment may be given to siblings of students who are enrolled in a designated school.

Tier 1: Public School Students

Tier 2: Non-Public School Students including Home-schooled Students

1. Tier 1: To be eligible to participate in the program, a student shall be enrolled at the time of application in a public school in grades preschool through 6 in a school of the sending district and have **attended school in the sending district for at least one full year immediately preceding enrollment in the choice district**. The one-year requirement shall not apply to a student enrolling in preschool or kindergarten in the choice district, if that student has a sibling enrolled in the choice district
2. Tier 2: Applications for students who have attended non-public schools or have been home-schooled will be considered if seats still remain after public school students are accepted since the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program was designed to provide educational choices to public school students.

## **Does a CHOICE student have to apply every year to continue attending the same CHOICE School?**

Once a student is enrolled in a designated school, the student shall not be required to reapply each school year for enrollment in any designated school of the choice district and shall continue to be permitted to be enrolled until 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation in the Cape May City Elementary School. A student shall be permitted to transfer back to a school of the sending district or may apply to a different choice district during the next application period.

### **Additional Facts:**

A choice district may evaluate a prospective student on the student's interest in the program offered by a designated school. The district shall not discriminate in its admission policies or practices on the basis of athletic ability, intellectual aptitude, English language proficiency, status as a handicapped person, or any basis prohibited by State or federal law.

A choice district shall not prohibit the enrollment of a student based upon a determination that the additional cost of educating the student would exceed the amount of additional State aid received as a result of the student's enrollment. A choice district may reject the application for enrollment of a student who has been classified as eligible for special education services pursuant to chapter 46 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes if that student's individualized education program could not be implemented in the district, or if the enrollment of that student would require the district to fundamentally alter the nature of its educational program, or would create an undue financial or administrative burden on the district.

A student whose application is rejected by a choice district shall be provided with a reason for the rejection in the letter of notice. The appeal of a rejection notice may be made to the commissioner.

**For further information, refer to the NJ Department of Education website:**

<http://www.nj.gov/education/choice/>