

TO: Winooski Valley Collaborative Schools
FROM: Tracy Martin, Lottery Coordinator
DATE: January 22, 2018
RE: Lottery/Public School Choice - 2018-2019

Here is the 2018-19 lottery application and a sample letter for you to send to parents regarding school choice. Info should be distributed by the end of January to all students in your district who are currently in grades 8-11. Some schools are saving postage by sending postcards, printing a note on report cards, or putting information on the school website regarding school choice and the location of applications.

All completed applications need to be sent to me by March 1, 2018. You may either mail applications to U-32, Attn: Tracy Martin, 930 Gallison Hill Rd., Montpelier, VT 05602 or fax to 802-262-6979 (with a cover sheet) or scan and email to tmartin@u32.org.

Students who are already in the lottery are not required to complete a new application each year. You will want to confirm with them that they are still planning to use their lottery spot, however, and confirm that they still have the same address.

After I receive the applications, I will run “exiting” and “entering” lotteries for each school (if needed). By April 1st, I will send all applicants a letter giving them the results of their application. By April 15th, students must give their decision to their sending and receiving schools. Both of these dates are per state law.

*Students applying to a school outside of Winooski Valley Collaborative schools:
If there is a student in your district who wants to apply to a school outside of the 16 schools listed below, *please forward their application to me immediately*. The superintendents from each district will work together regarding this application.

*Students outside of Winooski Valley Collaborative applying to your school: If there is a student outside of the WVC who contacts you and would like to apply to attend your school through school choice, direct them to their own Guidance Dept for an application. Please also email me their name and sending school. Superintendents from each district will then work together regarding this application.

****Be sure that students are aware that they will be responsible for providing their own transportation if they are chosen for school choice. ****

Feel free to contact me with questions at tmartin@u32.org or 802-229-0322.

Sample Letter to Parents

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As in previous years, our school board has chosen to participate in the Winooski Valley Regional Public School Choice Collaborative for 2018-19. Through this program and the state school choice program, students may apply to go to any public high school in Vermont at no cost.

The Vermont Legislature passed a law in May 2012 (Act 129, Sec. 34. § 822d 2A) which allows high school students to apply through school choice to any public high school in Vermont. This law sets rules for school districts regarding the number of entering and exiting student slots allowed through school choice. Students are chosen by lottery from all the applicants for each school district based on the number of open slots. You may view school choice information at the Vermont Agency of Education website,

<http://education.vermont.gov/vermont-schools/school-operations/public-schools/public-high-school-choice>.

If your student is interested in attending a high school outside of your district next year, please contact (insert name of your school contact) to obtain a school choice application form and return it to (insert name of your school contact and mailing address) by (date of your deadline).

You will be informed of the outcome of the lottery by April 1, 2018. You will need to confirm whether your student will accept or decline the placement by April 15, 2018. If you do not confirm placement by this date your slot may be given to another student if the school has a waiting list.

Parents are responsible for providing their student's transportation if they are chosen.

If you have any questions, please call (insert name of your school contact and phone # and e-mail).