

The Department of Education's G&T Placement Process

*This information is in the Gifted & Talented Handbook, which is still posted online:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/GiftedandTalented/Resources/default.htm>*

Siblings: All siblings who meet the eligibility cut-offs (97% and above for citywide, 90% and above for district) receive a placement at their sibling's school, if the sibling is presently in grades K-4 and if there are enough spots for all eligible sibling applicants. If your top priority is for your child to be placed in the G&T program in his/her sibling's school, you are encouraged to rank the sibling's school as your first choice. If you rank another G&T program as a higher choice above the sibling's school, your child may be placed at that school.

Non-siblings: The DOE fills any seats not taken by siblings of current students with the non-sibling children who qualified for G&T classes, beginning with those in the 99th percentile. A computer shuffles all the 99th percentile applications into a random order – this is when luck comes into play and every parent hopes that his/her child's application will be at the front of this electronic "line". The computer will process every application with a combined score of 99 before moving on to the 98th percentile group. By the time the computer reaches the last application within the 99th percentile group, the highest ranked schools on that application (or even all of the ranked schools) may already be filled with students whose applications were already processed. This procedure continues through each percentile group: all those in the 98th will be processed, then all those in the 97th, and so on thru the 90th.

No strategy: There is no strategy in ranking schools on your application, just put them in your order of preference. There is no way to "game" the system; it's simple, so don't over-think it and make it harder than it is. It's important to rank your school choices in the order you prefer, because when your application comes up in the lottery, the computer will first check to see if there are still seats available in your first choice school; if not, then it checks your second choice school and so on down your list. It will try to place your child in the highest ranked school on your application that still has seats open at the time your application comes up in the lottery. You don't need to worry about how many seats are available at a particular school and there's no such thing as "wasting" your first choice, unless you wouldn't send your child to that school. Also, applications are not ranked by composite score (such as 99.9, 99.8, etc.) nor are they sorted by geography (for Citywide schools), birth date, race or gender.

Protocol: You should only rank those G&T programs/schools that you would be willing to have your child attend and only those that you would prefer above your local general ed. school. Applications will not be disqualified if you do not rank all of your possible choices. Your application will be processed with all of the other applications no matter how many (or few) G&T programs/schools you elect to rank.

The DOE over-enrolls classrooms a bit, knowing that some parents will decline seats. It's very important for you to either accept the offer of G&T placement or decline it in a timely manner. If you decide to accept a G&T offer, please contact that school immediately so they can give you a registration appointment. Then contact your local zoned school to let them know you are not coming, so another child can come off their general ed. waitlist!

Attrition: Some G&T programs may have a few seats become available due to attrition. Applicants will remain eligible for placement at any program that they ranked higher than the program where they received an offer (or all programs, if no offer was received). Placement is based on the same admissions priorities as the initial placements. Schools will contact waitlisted families directly if they are able to offer them a seat; no additional action is required of families. Open G&T seats will continue to be filled through October, 2017.