

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

High School Choice for Incoming Freshmen

Question	Answer/Response
1. What if I don't have computer access or I don't know how to use ParentVue?	You can visit your student's middle school and ask for assistance. There should be workshops and computer lab time available for parents. You can also visit our District Office and the High School Choice Team can assist you. We are located on the third floor.
2. How do I reach someone in the High School Choice Office?	You can reach us on the High School Choice Helpline at (562)997-8306. Our goal is to return phone calls within 24 hours. You can also visit us on the third floor of the LBUSD Administration Building. It is located at 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810.
3. Does it matter when I apply?	Yes! High School recruitment begins in October of the 8 th grade year. The application becomes available online through ParentVue, beginning in December. Final assignments are made in late February or early March. An appeal window is available in March.
4. What happens if I apply after the December deadline?	Late applicants will be offered program availability based on the criteria and where space is available. Program availability is limited to where seats are open after all on-time applicants have been placed. Please refer to the "Timeline for 8 th grade Families" that was mailed home in October and can be found on the High School Choice website.
5. My student currently attends a school that isn't in LBUSD (or homeschool), how do I apply to attend an LBUSD high school?	Contact the Choice Helpline to set up an enrollment appointment. On our webpage you will find the checklist of documents that you will need to bring in to begin the process. Once completed, you will have a ParentVue account and apply at the same time and in the same manner as our in-district students.
6. How do I get an Interdistrict Permit (IDP) so my student can attend an LBUSD school if we do not live in the district boundaries?	Directions on how to obtain an IDP can be found on our webpage. It is best to start the process with your residential district after you receive your acceptance and have set your intention via ParentVue.
7. I heard that if I don't get accepted to the school I applied for, I can just go there on the first day and enroll. Is this true?	No. Assignments from High School Choice are final. The first opportunity to request a transfer to a different high school will take place in April of the student's 9 th grade year.
8. I want to have my 8 th grader attend the same school as their older sibling. Do you give siblings priority admission?	No. There is no priority given if you have an older sibling already attending a high school. Please be mindful that even with twins and multiples, we cannot guarantee placement at the same high school. If this is a concern, please contact High School Choice and we will provide as much guidance as possible.
9. Can't I just attend a high school, why do I have to pick pathways?	No. In LBUSD, students engage in Linked Learning through pathways based on California Industry Sectors. These combine rigorous academics aligned with career and technical education that provides deeper understanding of how to apply the learning to life. Students graduate college and career ready. Every student belongs to a pathway at all eleven high schools that participate in High School Choice.

10. Do I have to pick six choices?	No. You will be asked to select a pathway at your High School of Residence (HSOR), before you are able to select any other options. If you wish to attend your HSOR, you can complete the application with only selecting a single option. <u>Any other selections mean that you are willing to accept placement at any of those selections.</u> Please note: transportation is not provided and it is the parent’s responsibility to get their child to school. Also, please keep in mind you may be assigned to your HSOR if there is no available space at your other choices.
11. Do I have to pick six different schools?	No. You can select up to six different pathways that your student qualifies for at any of our eleven high schools that have freshman classes.
12. What if I change my mind?	Once you receive your assignment, we cannot guarantee placement at another site (even your HSOR). That space was granted to another student.
13. How will I know about what pathways/schools my student was accepted to?	In mid-February or early March letters with the selection results will be mailed home to every student that applied on time. Assignments will also be viewable on ParentVue on a specific date. The date and time will be posted on School Loop and our website.
14. What do I need to do when I receive the letter of acceptance?	To complete the process and reserve your seat in a specific school and pathway, you must log back into ParentVue, intend to their chosen pathway, and certify the choice by the deadline. A confirmation will be sent to the email address associated with the ParentVue account. Please do not assume since you received a letter of acceptance that your student is now enrolled into that program – <u>you must set the intent and certify your decision in ParentVue.</u>
15. Why do I have to intend after I receive my acceptance?	Some students will receive more than one acceptance to a pathway. LBUSD needs to know what pathway the student would prefer to attend.
16. What happens if I don’t intend by the deadline?	We cannot guarantee placement in any pathway that your student was accepted to if the intention was not set by the deadline. We will assign your student to a school where we have space available.
17. What if I have moved?	Address changes entered into our computer system by November 6, 2017 can be adjusted for a new HSOR. Address changes after that date cannot be guaranteed. You must change your address at your current LBUSD middle school (students not currently attending LBUSD schools must change their address with the High School Choice Office).
18. What if my student is withdrawn from middle school to attend OFL or EPHS?	Students who withdraw are no longer active in our student information system and will not be assigned. If you are planning on returning to LBUSD for 9 th grade – please contact the Choice Helpline so we can transfer the student into a file where that will not happen.
19. Why does my HSOR show “NORHS”	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The address on file is located outside of LBUSD boundaries. 2. The address on file was entered incorrectly.
20. Why do I get an error when I try to log on to ParentVue?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ParentVue account has not been activated or registered. 2. Parent does not have “Ed. Rights”. LBUSD staff will need to check your parent profile. 3. The system is busy, try again later.
21. Why can I not see/select a certain pathway?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are on the first screen and must select something at your HSOR. 2. Your student does not meet the minimum requirements for that pathway. 3. Your student receives services for Special Education and that school site does not offer that type of accommodation.

<p>22. My student's GPA falls just below the minimum criteria. Is there a way to apply?</p>	<p>No. The school sets their minimum criteria with the approval of the Assistant Superintendent of High Schools and the Superintendent. They use a variety of factors including historical student achievement data, applicant numbers, and level of rigor expected in the freshman classes. These are set numbers and students who do not meet the set value will not be able to apply to that pathway.</p>
<p>23. My student does not meet the minimum criteria for an arts program at our school of choice. Will not being in the pathway limit their ability to take art electives?</p>	<p>While each pathway has specific electives that align with their focus, the vast majority of electives have open access to any student that meets the criteria. Students from all pathways can take these classes and help represent their pathway in extracurricular performances and games/matches. If you have questions about specific classes, we encourage you to ask the faculty and staff from that school at their Site Showcase.</p>
<p>24. I don't want any of my HSOR pathways as my first choice but why do I have to select one to continue?</p>	<p>Once a pathway at the HSOR is selected, all pathways your student qualifies for will be available to select. You can reorder the selected pathways in any order you want by clicking on the blue number to the left of the pathway name.</p>
<p>25. What are my chances of getting into a pathway?</p>	<p>There are many factors which affect a student's chances of admission. The rank order of the pathway, academic merit (if applicable), residential status, the number of seats available, and the number of students that also select that pathway can all affect the probability of acceptance. Over 93% of all on-time applicants received an acceptance to their first choice of pathway. Please see your Middle School Counselor for information on our pathways that are typically oversubscribed with applicants.</p>
<p>26. Why is the selection for CAMS different than the other schools?</p>	<p>CAMS is a consortium school that we have a percentage of seats at, along with multiple other local districts. Per LBUSD Board of Education policy, each LBUSD middle school or K-8 is guaranteed two admissions per year. Students that live in LBUSD boundaries, but do not attend an LBUSD school as an eighth grader are considered as a cohort and four admissions are offered to students who apply from that group. We encourage interested students to consider applying to our other small thematic STEM schools as well as CAMS.</p>
<p>27. What if my child is GATE identified?</p>	<p>LBUSD does not have dedicated GATE pathways in high school, and GATE students are considered for their chosen pathways in the same manner as all other students. Please refer to pathway minimum criteria to better gauge the rigor and challenge of the academics expected in a given pathway.</p>
<p>28. What if my student has RSP or Speech (DIS)?</p>	<p>Students receiving either service follow the same protocol and are considered equally as all other students.</p>
<p>29. What if my student is designated SDC or ED?</p>	<p>Placement follows the same application protocol, based on available space, and appropriate pathway. Any transportation included in a student's IEP is not provided if he/she does not attend the HSOR.</p>
<p>30. If I attend a small thematic school that does not participate in Moore League, can I play for my HSOR?</p>	<p>No. It is against both Moore League and CIF rules for a student to be enrolled in one school and represent another school athletically. Most small, thematic schools offer various types of athletic programs to participate in, but do not play in Moore League events.</p>
<p>31. If a pathway does not have minimum criteria, what level of classes will I be taking?</p>	<p>Any student, in any pathway can take accelerated, honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses if they meet the pre-requisites. Just because a pathway does not have minimum criteria, it does not mean that a student is blocked from challenging themselves.</p>
<p>32. Will the high schools have wait lists?</p>	<p>No. There are no wait lists for any program or pathway. After all the intents are set, if space becomes available in a specialized pathway, our</p>

	office will contact students who met the minimum criteria and selected that pathway with the highest ranked choice. If space is available in regular pathways, the computer will conduct a lottery, giving residential priority to those students who selected it with the highest ranked choice.
33. Will there be a school bus to the school we are applying to?	No. There is no transportation provided in LBUSD, and parents are responsible for making transportation arrangements. If a student qualifies for transportation through their IEP, it is only valid to the HSOR. Discount bus passes are available through Long Beach Transit. Go to www.lbtransit.com/fares/Discount
34. What are shadow days?	Shadow Days are an optional activity that some schools and pathways choose to offer current eighth grade students. They can vary in activity level and duration – some are basic tours which last an hour and some are full day experiences where a student attends class with a current freshman.
35. How many shadow events can I participate in?	The Superintendent has designated that each student can elect to attend up to two Shadow Days. We want to ensure that students’ instructional minutes are protected in eighth grade.
36. How do I make a reservation for Shadow Days?	Beginning at 5:00pm on October 6, 2017, a family may visit: http://www.lbschools.net/Departments/School_Choice/hs_choice.cfm and click on “Shadow Day Reservation Request”. Use one form to select up to two different shadow opportunities. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis and some fill very quickly. The information will be sent to the high schools who will contact the families close to the event date. Please submit only one form as a family that requests more than one shadow will not receive more events.
37. Why can I not select “School X” or “Pathway Y” for a Shadow Day?	Not all schools or pathways choose to offer shadow events. Some schools do not have the staff to accommodate more students on campus and others choose to limit the number of attendees to ensure that student safety remains the top priority. If you are unable to select a specific school or pathway, either the site has chosen not to offer that activity, or the school has already received the maximum number of reservations that it can accommodate. We apologize but we are unable to offer more shadow opportunities than are currently listed.
38. My student changed their mind about what pathway to shadow. Can we change?	Call the Choice Helpline as soon as possible to see if there is still space available in the preferred pathway. We cannot guarantee that a change can be accommodated, but will do our best to help. Please do not submit another reservation request.
39. Someone called my student’s friend about a shadow and we haven’t heard anything! What do I do?	Each school organizes their shadow dates differently and we ask that you contact the school’s Pathway Coordinator. They will have all of the information you provided on the reservation and can advise you about the event details. The Pathway Coordinators’ contact information is located on the high school description pages included in your mailing packet as well as on our website. The Choice Helpline can confirm a reservation, but will not have details about the event itself.

<p>40. I'd like to request a particular student or sport for my child to shadow, how do I do that?</p>	<p>With 6,000 students eligible to shadow, it is not possible to match up specific student interests for that given day. A shadow allows a student to experience what life is like on a high school campus and a particular pathway. Students that are selected as hosts will be able to answer questions about the school and features.</p>
<p>41. Will I have to write a note to my student's middle school to get them back on campus after a shadow?</p>	<p>If your student attends an LBUSD middle school – no, the absence is treated like a school field trip, as they will be expected to participate in whatever the high school has planned.</p> <p>If your student is not a current LBUSD student – you will need to write a note indicating your student participated in a shadow. We cannot guarantee that the non-LBUSD school will consider the absence excused, and we encourage you to ask your administrator prior to making the reservation.</p> <p>In both cases, the host high school will provide an exit ticket indicating that the student was at the school, participating in the event. You can attach that to your letter or send it with your student when they return to their school.</p>
<p>42. Our Shadow is a half day event, does that mean my student gets to sleep in or come home early?</p>	<p>The calendar of events, times, and durations are listed on our website, and the middle schools are aware of these. We encourage eighth grade participants to attend class when not in transport to/from or participating in the event. The "school field trip" excused absence only applies to the time of the actual event with a small window on either end for transportation. Any additional time spent out of class will require a parent note of excuse.</p>
<p>43. Is there transportation provided to shadow events?</p>	<p>No. Parents are responsible for all transportation to/from events.</p>
<p>44. Can my student shadow twice at the same school?</p>	<p>If your student is interested in two pathways at one school, that is at your discretion. If a reservation is made twice to a single pathway, we will remove one, as it allows more students to take advantage of the shadow. Many students have found comparing two schools to help them truly determine the best fit for ninth grade. Options include like pathways at two comprehensive schools (i.e. Wilson Arts and Millikan COMPASS), or comparing a small thematic school and large comprehensive (i.e. Sato Academy and Lakewood ATM).</p>