

School of Choice Frequently Asked Questions

What is School of Choice?

Capistrano Unified School District's School of Choice program offers parents the opportunity to apply to the school, other than the home school, that they would like their child to attend.

How can I guarantee placement at the school I want my child(ren) to attend?

The only way to guarantee placement at a specific school site is to live within that school's boundaries.

Can my child get bus transportation to the school I apply for, if approved?

Transportation to any school other than the home school is the responsibility of the parents or guardian.

How do I know what programs are offered at each school site?

Detailed information describing each school and its academic offerings are available on their individual websites.

What does an “open” school mean?

When the list shows the school is “open” it means that school has room for incoming students in each grade level.

What does an “open-limited” school mean?

When the list shows “open-limited” it means there is limited space for incoming students at that site and applications are reviewed for each grade level.

What does a “closed” school mean?

When the list shows “closed” it means that school is already impacted and there is not room for students outside of their boundaries.

What if the school I want is “closed”?

If the school you would like to apply for is listed as “closed”, you may still complete an application for that site; however, chances are very low to being approved.

How do I apply?

During the open window to apply, please visit the SOC website and complete the online application. If you do not have access to the internet please visit your child's home school to complete a paper application. Applications will only be accepted during the open window period.

What do I need to apply?

You will need your child's seven digit student ID number. This is the same number as your student's lunch number or it can be found on the Parent Portal. For students new to the CUSD you can ask for the ID number after you fully register at your home school. If you are a new student to CUSD please note that you have to wait until the following day to apply for SOC to allow our system to complete a nightly update.

Can I check status of my application?

Unfortunately, there is not a way to check status of your application. Each application is reviewed and once decisions are made the approval/denial notifications are emailed to the email addresses associated

with the student.

Do I have to submit a separate application for each child?

Yes, a separate application is needed for each student.

Can I select more than one choice on my application?

Unfortunately, the application only accepts one location to apply for. Please make sure to select your top choice school.

Can I attach or send anything to my application?

No, the online application process is not set up to add attachments.

Do I have to reapply every year?

You ***do not*** need to reapply every year. This attendance agreement is in effect for the duration of your child's school years at the requested school only, provided you maintain continuous enrollment. Once you are to matriculate to the next school (middle or high school) if you wish to attend a school that is not your home school, you would then have to apply.

My child is already approved for SOC, does that roll over to the next school level? No, anytime a child advances from elementary to middle school or middle school to high school and that school is not the home school, you will have to apply for SOC.

My older child is already attending the school; does that guarantee approval for the younger siblings?

No, siblings are not guaranteed approval.

When will I know if we have been approved or denied? How will I be notified? The notification date will be posted on the main SOC website. Parents will be notified using the email addresses associated with the student.

How are applicants selected? Is it first come first served?

No, it is not first come first served. Approvals are based upon the priority code selected on the application and room available at the site applied for. If more applications are received than spaces available then there is a lottery starting with the top priority code.

What are the priority codes?

EMP – One of the parents/guardians is a CUSD employee AND this is your work site.

CFD – You pay Mello-Roos, Community Facilities District (CFD), that go towards CUSD.

CONT – Continuously enrolled at current site.

SIB – There is a sibling already attending the school applying for and will remain there for next school year (K-11). (You will need to provide siblings name, student ID, and grade). LOT- Lottery, none of the codes above apply.

LOT - All other non-categorized students base on an unbiased, random lottery.

How do I know if the Mello-Roos I pay goes towards CUSD?

Please check your tax bill or use the link below to see if you pay into one of the CDF funds that goes towards CUSD.

I made a mistake on the application how can I fix it?

Once an application is submitted you cannot change it yourself. To request any changes to an application please email schooltransfers@capousd.org.

My child is special education or has a 504 plan; do they have a priority?

No, placements are made based upon space available and if the requested school can accommodate the students needs.

Will this affect my child's ability to play CIF sports?

Parents of high-school student athletes are urged to learn more about CIF sports eligibility requirements prior to pursuing the School Of Choice process, so that there will be no misunderstanding regarding sports participation rules.

I've been approved; now what do I need to do?

Congratulations. If you are a current CUSD student please contact your approved school to find out summer packet pick-up and registration dates. If you are new to CUSD please contact your approved school to see if any further paperwork is needed.

I've been denied; can I appeal the denial?

Unfortunately, there are often more applications for a site than space available. With School of Choice being a space available only application process there is no way to appeal if denied and your child should enroll in their home school.

How do I cancel my application?

Anytime during the SOC window you can email schooltransfers@capousd.org to cancel your application. After the application window closes no cancellations are accepted.

I want to rescind my SOC and go back to my home school?

All School of Choice decisions are final and you may not rescind your application as you have agreed to give up your child's seat at their school of residence, the School of Choice school is now your child's School of Record. If you wish to return your child to their School of Residence, you must apply during the next School of Choice window for the next school year.

I missed the application window can I still apply?

Unfortunately, we cannot accept applications outside of the window.

I just moved out of my current schools boundaries can my child stay at their current a school?

Families that move during the school year within CUSD boundaries may complete a paper SOC application to STAY at their current school. Please obtain the paper SOC application from your school site. Acceptance is not guaranteed.