



Bellevue Big Picture School Admission Information

1.0 General

1.1 Bellevue Big Picture School is designed as a seven-year integrated program commencing in grade 6 and continuing through grade 12. Enrollment will begin with grades 6 and 9 in 2011 and new grade levels will be phased in each year, reaching the full 6-12 continuum by 2014.

1.2 Admission will be granted on a space available basis to qualified applicants selected under these procedures. The principal will determine by June 30 of the preceding school year the exact number of available positions for each grade level. An approximation of the number of openings will be announced at the information meetings held in the winter of the preceding school year.

1.3 Bellevue Big Picture School application schedule will coincide with the Bellevue School District open enrollment schedule with regard to application periods for resident and non-resident students.

1.4 Students will be admitted for specific grade levels. The school will only accept 6th and 9th graders for the 2011 academic year and 6,7,9, and 10th graders for the 2012 academic year.

1.5 All students who have been admitted have an opportunity for an informational interview with the school staff.

2.0 Bellevue School District Resident Admission Procedures

2.1 During the Bellevue School District open enrollment period, the Bellevue Big Picture School will hold informational meetings for prospective students.

2.2 Bellevue School district resident students (as defined by Bellevue School District policy #4020) may apply during the current school year or during the District resident enrollment period that the District uses for all open enrollment and special programs for the next school year. In some cases, resident applicants may be requested to show proof of residency.

2.3 Big Picture School will carefully consider the application of each applicant. If Big Picture School receives more applications from qualified applicants than it is able to admit, Big Picture School will consider socioeconomic status, geography, and gender as "plus factors," if necessary, to achieve diversity among its student body. For example, because Big Picture School is committed to achieving economic diversity among its students, the school will consider eligibility for free and reduced price meals as a "plus factor," if necessary, until the district free and reduced price meal average is reached. Because Big Picture School is committed to serving students throughout the District, the school will consider the student's address as a "plus factor," if necessary, until the four school zone areas (East, West, North, and South) are equally represented. Because Big Picture School is committed to achieving gender diversity among its students, the school will consider gender as a "plus factor," if necessary, until male and female students in a grade level are equally represented. Parents may consent to disclose free and reduced price meal eligibility to the district as part of the application process. This consent will be limited to the enrollment process and all information will be held confidential as provided by Federal and State law. Of course, parents may choose not to provide this consent and their applications will be processed without consideration of socioeconomic status.

If Big Picture School receives more applications from qualified applicants than it is able to admit during the District resident enrollment period a lottery may be conducted including the "sibling privilege" and "plus factors" as necessary.

2.4 Qualified applicants will be notified in writing of their admission to the school or their status on the waiting list and will have to notify the school in writing to reaffirm their intention to attend in the fall, if admitted, or to remain on the waiting list if not admitted. All replies must be postmarked no later than two weeks following the postmarked date on the notification letter. Failure to reaffirm will result in forfeiting a position in the school or on the waiting list.

2.5 Qualified applicants who have a sibling attending Bellevue Big Picture School may opt during the period described in 2.3 to guarantee their enrollment under a “sibling privilege,” subject to the provisions of the General Policy (1.0), and provided the sibling attending Big Picture School will be attending at the time of initial attendance by the applicant sibling. This offer applies to qualified applicants of any grade regardless of their waiting list status. If at any time the student first admitted to Bellevue Big Picture School makes a discretionary transfer to another school before graduation, the student admitted by the sibling guarantee privilege will revert to his/her original wait list status. If there are applicants above them on the wait list, the sibling must transfer to another school at the end of the semester. The applicant next on the wait list will be offered enrollment. An appeal on behalf of the sibling may be made to a committee consisting of the school principal, counselor and three members of the PDC (student, parent and staff) who have no particular connection to the student.

2.6 Qualified applicants wishing to exercise “sibling privilege” must turn in a completed application form during the normal District resident enrollment period. Late applications from qualified applicants wishing to exercise “sibling privilege” will be added to the bottom of the regular waiting list but may use their sibling privilege to be offered an available position before the regular waiting list is contacted. Such a guaranteed enrollment will be subject to the conditions of 2.5.

2.7 Qualified applicants of non-resident Bellevue School District employee(s) will be allowed to participate in a lottery on an equal basis with residents. Should the qualified applicants of non-resident employee(s) be selected in the lottery for any of the originally identified available positions, a number of resident students equal to the number of non-residents selected will be added to increase the enrollment cap for resident students. Should employees who do not work full time and/or are not assigned to schools terminate employment with the District, their students enrolled in Bellevue Big Picture will be allowed to complete the current semester and then required to exit the school. However, students in grade 11 or above will be allowed to remain enrolled until graduation.

2.8 At the end of the open enrollment period, qualified applicants will be placed on the waiting list and admitted on a first come first served basis based on the date of application.

3.0 Bellevue School District Non Resident Admission Procedures

3.1 Non-resident students are encouraged to attend the informational meetings as described above in 2.1

3.2 Starting April 10, 2012, qualified non-resident applicants to Bellevue Big Picture School will be accepted on a first come first served basis based on date of application with equal preference given to all non-resident applicants following District policy 4025.

3.3 Non-resident students who have been admitted to Bellevue Big Picture School under the provisions of this policy will be required to re-apply on a yearly basis with an inter-district transfer request to Bellevue School District. Resident Bellevue School District students who subsequently move outside the district boundaries and children of non-resident District employees who terminate employment will be allowed to attend the Bellevue Big Picture School through the end of the current grading period, at which time it will be necessary for them to reapply, in compliance with District Policy #4025.

4.0 Waiting List Procedure

4.1 The waiting lists will remain in effect until May 31 of the school year for which application was made. Qualified resident applicants on those lists who have reaffirmed in writing, postmarked by May 31, will maintain their status and will be offered enrollment the next school year depending on space available and their status on the waiting lists.

4.2 Qualified applicants for any current school year will be added to the appropriate waiting list as they are received. The “sibling privilege” provision of 2.5 will apply as defined above.

5.0 Compliance with District Policy and Washington State Law

5.1 It is the intent of this policy to comply with Bellevue School District policy and Washington State law. If at any time a portion or portions of this policy are found not to be in compliance with Bellevue School District policy or Washington State law those portions will be dealt with separately and will not impact the remaining policy.