

Adopted: January 25, 2016
Revised: December 5, 2021

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain the application and enrollment process at Athlos Academy of St. Cloud so that families will have information to make decisions regarding their children's school attendance.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy establishes guidelines for admission into Athlos Academy of St. Cloud that are consistent with the admission requirements of Minnesota Statutes §124E and other applicable laws.

III. LIMITATIONS ON ENROLLMENT

A. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud places age appropriately for all students.

B. Pursuant to the contract with its authorizer, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud has limited eligible pupils to:

Pupils within K-8th grade

1. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud does not accept applications for kindergarten students who are not age five on or before September 1st of the school year for which the student seeks admission.
2. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud does not accept applications for first grade students who are not age six on or before September 1st of the school year for which the student seeks admission.

IV. PUBLICATION AND COMMUNICATION OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- A. Information regarding enrollment deadlines and procedures will be published on the Athlos Academy of St. Cloud website. Information regarding Minnesota Statute 124E will be included on the application form.
- B. Each year, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will inform the public of the open enrollment period. Interested families are required to submit an application form for admission for the following school year.
- C. Each year, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will publish a date for its lottery for admission for the following school year.
- D. A lottery software company will conduct the lottery electronically on a scheduled date in a setting open to the public. If the lottery must be postponed due to inclement weather conditions, the lottery shall be conducted at the scheduled time on the following day.

V. GENERAL ENROLLMENT PROVISIONS

- A. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud is a public school and pursuant to state law, must enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building. When that occurs, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will begin lottery procedures described in section IX.
- B. Before admitting a student by lottery, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud shall give preference to currently enrolled students, siblings of current students, a foster child of that pupil's parents, and children of the school's staff.
- C. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud shall not discriminate against any student based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, religion or creed, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, disability, intellectual ability, prior measures of achievement or aptitude, athletic ability, or for any other basis that would be unlawful for a public or charter school.
- D. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud shall not seek any information about any applicant that may be used to discriminate against the applicant in either school's policies or governing laws. This does not preclude the school from seeking such information for a lawful purpose about a student after the student has been admitted.
- E. Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy to the contrary, in compliance with the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education and with the 2011 settlement agreement in ACLU v. TiZA, et al. litigation, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud shall not select students based on religious preference.
- F. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will not distribute any services or goods of value to students, parents or guardians as an inducement, term or condition of enrolling a student unless required to do so by Minnesota's Pupil Fee Law.

VI. POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS

- A. Before the open enrollment begins, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will provide notice to parents of currently enrolled students. The notice will provide guidelines for parents on how to reenroll currently enrolled students for the following school year.
- B. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will require current families to complete and submit Intent to Return forms for each child returning for the following school year. Completion of forms will not impact enrollment status for the following school year, but will ensure that the school maintains current information on students from year to year. Students are considered enrolled in the school year to year until the family formally withdraws the student or the student is expelled under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.
- C. Intent to Return forms will be available to current families during the open enrollment period which starts the first Monday in January and ends the last Friday in March. Families are encouraged to complete their forms within this window.
- D. If a current family has not completed the Intent to Return forms by the close of the open enrollment period, the student will remain enrolled at Athlos Academy of St. Cloud for the following year and staff will continue to communicate with the family to request information on plans for the following school year, including requesting completion of the Intent to Return paperwork.

E. **VII. POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR SIBLINGS OF ENROLLED STUDENTS AND STUDENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**

- A. If a family wishes to enroll a sibling of a currently enrolled student, the application form must be completed within the assigned time frame in order to receive preference.
 - 1. A "sibling" is defined as a student applicant who is related to an enrolled student with the same father and/or mother either (1) genetically, or (2) through legal process, i.e., adoption, guardianship, or foster parent. Sibling preference does not apply until one of the siblings is actually enrolled.
- B. If an Athlos Academy of St. Cloud staff member wishes to enroll their child, the application form must be completed within the assigned time frame in order to receive preference.
 - 1. If a staff member's employment is ended for any reason, the child moves to the end of the non-preferential waiting list.
- C. If there are more siblings of currently enrolled students and students of staff members than spots in a particular grade, applicants will be shuffled by lot and a separate lottery for these students will occur. Offers of enrollment will be made following the lottery. After all open slots are filled, the siblings of currently enrolled students and students of staff members who were not offered an enrollment slot will be placed on the top of the waiting list in the order in which their names are drawn by the electronic lottery.

VIII. APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

- A. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will accept application forms for admission for up to 25 per classroom for grades K-8. The board of directors may increase one or more grades' capacity by resolution and without changing this policy prior to the date on which applications are no longer accepted.
- B. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud welcomes inquiries and scheduled tours throughout the school year. The school will encourage families to meet with faculty, staff, and/or board members to discuss the value of Athlos Academy of St. Cloud and its expectations of students and their families.
- C. Families are required to submit one application form for each student. All application forms are time and date-stamped and labeled sequentially, designating the order in which they were received.
- D. A completed application is required for anyone wishing to be considered for enrollment. It is the responsibility of the applicant to retain confirmation from Athlos Academy of St. Cloud of the receipt of the application. If confirmation of receipt is not received, it is upon the applicant to follow up with Athlos Academy of St. Cloud to request the confirmation.
- E. Each year, the open enrollment period will begin on the first Monday in January and end on the last Friday in March. All applications must be received by 2:30 PM on the last date of the published open enrollment period. All applications received after that date and time will be processed in the order they are received. The board of directors may change the deadline for applications for the next school year by resolution without changing this policy.
- F. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud is not responsible for mistakes or omissions on submitted application forms. An incomplete application form will not be considered for enrollment and

therefore will not be processed until complete.

- G. All parents/guardians of applicants will be notified within one week following the close of the open enrollment period. Notification will also include their child's enrollment status and information regarding any necessary lottery.
- H. If the number of new applicants exceeds the number of enrollment slots that remain available, all timely new applicants will be placed in the lottery.

IX. LOTTERY

- A. If a lottery is necessary, it will be conducted within 10 business days after the close of the open enrollment period.
- B. A lottery software company will conduct the lottery as a public event to ensure the lottery procedures are fairly executed.
- C. All timely applicants will be placed on one of two lists by grade: (a) a preference list of students given preference by state law or this policy, and (b) all other applicants. Both lists will be shuffled and offers of enrollment will be made to students in the order in which they are electronically sorted, first exhausting the preference list, and then proceeding to the non-preference applicants.
- D. Families who have received notification of the lottery as stated in section VIII are not required to attend the lottery.
- E. Families will be notified electronically by email of their child's admission status within 10 business days of the lottery taking place.
- F. Parents/Guardians of students admitted through the lottery will receive an acceptance email using the email address provided by families during the admissions process. Parents will be notified at this time to complete the required enrollment documents by the deadline set forth in the acceptance email. If all enrollment forms are not returned by the date set forth in the acceptance email, the enrollment spot will be considered forfeited.
- G. Students who did not get accepted into the program through the lottery will be put on the wait list and will be admitted to the program as enrollment slots become available.
- H. Students who apply after the lottery is held will be added to the waiting list in the order in which they turn in an application form.

X. WAITING LIST

- A. If any student, whether enrolled or on the waiting list, cancels their application or withdraws from Athlos Academy of St. Cloud, they shall lose their place. If they later re-apply, they shall be treated as a new applicant.
 - 1. In the case an enrollment space becomes available, the applicant will be notified via email through the enrollment software. The applicant will then be provided with enrollment paperwork which must be completed in order to secure a spot.

2. If the email address provided on the application is not valid, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide Athlos Academy of St. Cloud with current contact information. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud is not responsible for enrollment slots forfeited due to incorrect contact information.
- C. Once the applicant has been notified, as defined above, the applicant has 48 hours to complete the enrollment paperwork or the spot will be considered forfeited.
- D. If the applicant chooses not to enroll their student or does not respond within the allocated timeframe, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will continue contacting applicants in the order in which they are listed on the waiting list.
- E. All applicants still on a waiting list at the beginning of the next enrollment period must submit a new application form for enrollment and will be subject to the enrollment process described above. The waiting lists do not carry over from year to year.

XI. STUDENT RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES

- A. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud shall market itself before and during the enrollment period to recruit students to meet its enrollment goals as set by the board of directors.
- B. In accordance with its marketing strategy, Athlos Academy of St. Cloud may use the measures below, among others, to recruit student applicants.
 1. Post flyers and notices in local newspapers and/or blogs and online newspapers.
 2. Post the admissions policy and application (available for download) on the school's website.
- C. Athlos Academy of St. Cloud will provide translation services, as necessary, for all promotional materials and any person-to-person interaction.

XII. INTERPRETATION OF POLICY

- A. Should any question or unanticipated scenario occur regarding the admission and enrollment policy, the principal is responsible for final interpretation and implementation of the policy above and recommendations for any appropriate updates.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §124E.11 (Admission Requirements)
Minn. Stat. §§123B.36-.37 (Authorized Fees; Prohibited Fees)