



American Renaissance School

"A Downtown Community School"

Enrollment Policy

American Renaissance School is a tuition free public school dedicated to the success of all students. Admission is open to any North Carolina resident of proper age, unless demand exceeds the number of spaces permitted in a charter school agreement with the State.

ARS follows North Carolina G.S. 115C and guidelines set by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in the School Attendance and Student Accounting Manual to determine eligibility for enrollment.

1 Eligibility Requirements & Admission Process

As defined by North Carolina G.S. 115C-218.45:

- (a) Any child who is qualified under the laws of this State for admission to a public school is qualified for admission to ARS.
- (b) No local board of education shall require any student enrolled in the local school administrative unit to attend ARS.
- (c) Admission to ARS shall not be determined according to the school attendance area in which a student resides provided it is within the state of North Carolina.
- (d) ARS does not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, athletic ability, or disability. ARS does not limit admission to students on the basis of sex, race, creed, national origin, religion, or ancestry. ARS makes efforts for the population of the school to reasonably reflect the racial and ethnic composition of the general population residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located. ARS shall be subject to any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the local school administrative unit.
- (e) ARS gives enrollment priority to any of the following:
 - (1) Siblings of currently enrolled students who were admitted to ARS in a previous year. For the purposes of this section, the term "siblings" includes any of the following who reside in the same household: half siblings, stepsiblings, and children residing in a family foster home.
 - (2) Siblings of students who have completed the highest grade level offered by ARS and who were enrolled in at least four grade levels at ARS.
 - (3) Limited to no more than fifteen percent (15%) of the school's total enrollment, unless granted a waiver by the State Board of Education, the following:
 - a. Children of the school's full-time employees.
 - b. Children of the charter school's board of directors.
 - (4) A student who was enrolled at ARS within the two previous school years but left the school to participate in an academic study abroad program or a competitive admission residential program.

- (f) If a lottery is needed under subsection (g) of this section, the lottery shall be conducted according to the procedure outlined in section 3. Lottery procedures for siblings:
 - (1) If siblings apply for admission to ARS and a lottery is needed under subsection (g) of this section, each sibling will be treated as a separate applicant.
 - (2) If multiple birth siblings apply for admission to ARS and a lottery is needed under subsection (g) of this section, ARS shall enter one surname into the lottery to represent all of the multiple birth siblings applying at the same time. If that surname of the multiple birth siblings is selected, then all of the multiple birth siblings shall be admitted.
- (g) During each period of enrollment, ARS shall enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application as defined in section 2, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In this case, students shall be accepted by lottery as defined in section 3. Once enrolled, students are not required to reapply in subsequent enrollment periods.
- (h) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, ARS may refuse admission to any student who has been expelled or suspended from a public school under G.S. 115C-390.5 through G.S. 115C-390.11 until the period of suspension or expulsion has expired. (1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 731, s. 2; 1997-430, s. 5; 1997-443, s. 8.19; 1997-456, s. 55.4; 1998-212, s. 9.14A(a); 1999-243, s. 8; 2001-462, s. 1; 2004-118, s. 3; 2004-203, s. 45(b); 2006-69, s. 3(e); 2006-137, s. 2; 2007-59, s. 2; 2007-126, s. 2; 2007-323, s. 28.22A(o); 2007-345, s. 12; 2009-239, s. 1; 2009-563, s. 2; 2010-10, s. 2(a); 2011-93, s. 2(a); 2011-145, s. 7.29(b); 2011-164, s. 4; 2011-282, s. 9; 2012-142, ss. 7A.1(f), 7A.3(c), 7A.11(b); 2012-145, s. 2.5; 2012-179, s. 1(c); 2013-307, s. 1.1; 2013-355, s. 1(f); 2013-359, s. 1; 2013-360, ss. 8.43(a), 9.7(q); 2014-101, ss. 4, 4.5, 7; 2015-248, ss. 3(b), (c); 2016-79, s. 1.5.)

1.1 Kindergarten Entry & Age Requirements

As defined by North Carolina G.S. 115C-364, the following students are entitled to apply for enrollment at American Renaissance School:

- (a) All students who have passed the fifth anniversary of their birth on or before August 31 of the current year.
 - (1) A student who did not reach age five on or before August 31 of the current year, but has been attending school during that school year in another state in accordance with the laws or rules of that state before the child moved to and became a resident of North Carolina.
- (b) A child who has passed the fourth anniversary of their birth on or before April 16 of the current year may apply for enrollment or be included in an enrollment lottery, if necessary, as defined in section 1, subsection g. If selected for enrollment, applicants must submit the information listed below by June 1 of the current year to the principal, who will decide if the child is gifted and has the maturity to justify admission. All testing must be completed after April 16 of the current year. Failure to submit any of this information by June 1 will result in removal from the enrollment process. ARS may remove the student within the first 90 days of the school year if the principal finds there is significant evidence that the child is not ready for Kindergarten. In this case, the school must provide a minimum of 10 days' notice.
 - (1) **Student Aptitude:** A score at the 98th percentile on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the *Stanford-Binet, the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of*

Intelligence, the Kaufman Anderson, or any other comparable test administered by a licensed psychologist.

- (2) **Achievement:** A score at the 98th percentile in either Reading or Mathematics on a standard test such as the *Metropolitan Readiness Test, the Stanford Early School Achievement Test, the Mini Battery of Achievement, the Woodcock-Johnson, the Test of Early Mathematics (TEMA), the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA), or any other comparable test administered by a licensed psychologist.*
 - (3) **Performance:** Children displaying a need to enter kindergarten early shall be able to perform tasks well above their age peers. Some indicators the principal may observe are the child's ability in independent reading, problem solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. A child ready for kindergarten would not necessarily demonstrate precociousness in all of these areas. The applicant shall submit a sample of student work showing outstanding examples of ability in any of the following areas: art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, social interactions, etc. For further indication of performance, the principal may instruct a teacher to complete an informal reading assessment.
 - (4) **Observable Student Behavior:** If a child is to be successful in early admission, they should be socially and developmentally mature enough to be in a structured school setting for a full school day. The child should be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group. Not every child with extraordinary academic ability is mature enough to attend public school early. The applicant shall submit two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from preschool teachers, child care workers, pediatricians, licensed psychologists, or other adults with direct knowledge of the child. Documentation checklists that might be useful are the *California Preschool Competency Scale, the Harrison Scale, or any other comparable scale of early social development.*
 - (5) **Motivation & Student Interest:** A child ready for early admission to kindergarten should be eager to learn and be excited about a new school experience. These children should display a thirst for knowledge consequently pushing the parents for new and challenging learning situations. If only the parent is interested in the child's attending school, early admission is not a good option. Principals or his/her designee shall determine this information in an informal interview with the child and in a more structured interview with the parent. An appropriate interview with a child would take place in a warm and inviting environment, such as the kindergarten classroom. The child might even be invited to spend a day with a kindergarten teacher. Questions the principal or his/her designee should ask the child would concentrate on the personal interests of the child. A child who is ready for school should respond with enthusiasm when asked to tell about a special collection or a topic about which he/she has a great deal of knowledge or extreme interest. A child who is a candidate may be one who watches the Discovery Channel, reads everything he/she can find about dinosaurs, can carry on a discussion about volcanoes, etc.
- (c) All students under the age of 21 years who are currently enrolled in another public or private school within the United States in a grade level offered by ARS.

2 Open Enrollment & Application Process

The annual open enrollment period shall begin on the first school day in January of each year and extend until the first Friday in March of that year. An enrollment lottery, if necessary as defined in section 1, subsection g, shall be scheduled no later than April 1 of that year. The date shall be reserved and published prior to the open enrollment period.

To be enrolled or included in an enrollment lottery, applicants must complete an enrollment lottery application. This application shall consist strictly of demographic information necessary to confirm eligibility as set in section 1. The application shall be available online in both a digital and printable format and in the front lobby of each campus. The application must be submitted to the school in its entirety online or by mail prior to the end of the open enrollment period to be included in a lottery. Late applications may be accepted until the 20th day of school, and late applicants will be added to the bottom of the waiting list in the order applications are received.

3 Lottery Process

An enrollment lottery, if necessary as defined in section 1, subsection g, determines enrollment and the order of a wait list for the following school year. Seats will be offered in separate lotteries for each grade level based on current availability. Siblings of current or former students will be offered seats first, as defined in section 1, subsection e, then remaining spaces will be filled by new applicants. Once all seats are full, the wait list for each grade level will be created based on the order applicants are drawn in the lottery. As information regarding availability is submitted to the school, seats will be offered in the order defined by the wait list. ARS may continue to offer seats to applicants on the wait list until the 20th day of the school year following the open enrollment period.

The lottery shall be open to the public and comply with the North Carolina Open Meetings Law. The lottery must ensure all applicants are treated fairly and consistently. The specific lottery operation may vary as determined by the administration and board; however, the lottery must ensure applicants are admitted or placed on a wait list in a manner that is unbiased, random, auditable, and transparent. A minimum of four staff or board members shall share duties during the lottery to provide accountability.

Following the lottery, applicants must be notified of the results by email, phone call, and mail within 15 calendar days. ARS shall require applicants being offered enrollment to submit any other required vaccination, health, or educational information and confirm their intention to enroll within 15 days of the result notification. Failure to confirm enrollment shall result in the applicant being moved to the bottom of the wait list for the respective grade level.

Following the initial result notification, applicants placed on the wait list shall be notified as soon as possible if space becomes available and ARS is able to offer enrollment. This notification shall be delivered by email, phone call, and mail. Applicants must confirm their intention to enroll within 15 days of this notification. Failure to confirm shall result in the applicant being moved to the bottom of the wait list for the respective grade level.