



When METCO was designed in 1966, there were no personal computers, internet, or smartphones.

For decades, much of the application process has been on paper records in file folders. Families signed up newborns in person, then wait for years on a waiting list of tens of thousands to learn their fate.

Now, after a year-long study and community feedback from families and education officials, METCO is proud to announce **the first major upgrade of the application system in decades.**

# EFFICIENT | TRANSPARENT | EQUITABLE NEW APPLICATION PROCESS

## Step one: APPLY ONLINE



All eligible families with **school-age students** are invited to apply...

through an **online** application from any device, or in the METCO Headquarters...



during an annual application window **between October and December.**

## Why go online?

TO REMOVE BARRIERS from eligible families

- Application can be accessed by anyone at anytime
- Documents can be photographed or scanned in using personal devices; no need to make copies

TO STRENGTHEN INTEGRITY of data security and selection process

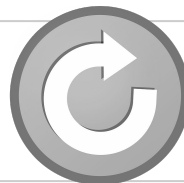
- Only complete and eligible applications will be automatically verified
- Data is kept up-to-date by families themselves
- Families can save incomplete applications and return to them when they are ready

## Step two: SELECTION BY LOTTERY



At the end of the application period, everyone eligible has an equal chance to be referred through a **random lottery.**

If not accepted, families can **re-apply** every year and have another, equal chance.



## Why a lottery?

TRANSPARENCY AND EQUITY for all

- Parents apply when they are making a timely decision about Kindergarten education, rather than years in advance
- Families learn the outcome promptly and can track their progress through the process
- Equal odds for families in a wider range of communities, including recent Boston residents



**Siblings are prioritized** when space is available in the enrolled student's district.



# NEW APPLICATION PROCESS: METCO TRANSITION YEAR

Before moving to a full lottery, several hundred families on the current Wait List will receive "PRIORITY STATUS" for enrollment in the school year 2020-21 only:

1. Students in grades 1-10 who completed applications in 2019 but were not ultimately referred,
2. Students on the Wait List who will be entering Kindergarten in 2020 (if they complete an application online this fall), and
3. Siblings of students currently enrolled in METCO school districts.

Families must complete an updated, online application during the application window in fall 2019 to receive Priority Status.

**For all other families, the Wait List is phased out this year.**

School-aged children should apply online during the application window (October-December 2019).

*Use this chart to determine the status of your child's application under the new system.*

<b>I completed an application in 2019 for enrollment this fall, and I'm waiting to hear if I am referred.</b>	
<i>If your student is not ultimately enrolled in METCO in the fall of 2019, you will be eligible for PRIORITY STATUS if you apply online during the fall application window (October-December 2019).</i>	
<b>I signed up for the Wait List, but I did not complete an application in 2019.</b>	
My child will be in Kindergarten in the fall of 2020.	<i>You will be eligible for PRIORITY STATUS if you apply online during the fall application window (October-December 2019).</i>
My child will NOT YET be in Kindergarten in the fall of 2020.	<i>Your status in the Wait List is phased out. When your child will be school-aged the following academic year, apply online during the application window and you will be assigned a lottery number for referral to a district.</i>
<b>I have not signed up for the Wait List.</b>	
My child will NOT be ready for Kindergarten in the fall of 2020.	<i>When your child will be school-aged in the following academic year, apply online during the application window (October-December). If you are eligible, you will be assigned a lottery number for referral to a district.</i>
My child will be entering grades Kindergarten through 10th in the fall of 2020.	<i>Apply online during the application window (October-December 2019). If you are eligible, you will be assigned a lottery number for referral to a district.</i>
<b>I have a child currently enrolled in a METCO district.</b>	
My other child will NOT be ready for Kindergarten in the fall of 2020.	<i>When your child will be school-aged in the following academic year, apply online during the application window (October-December). You will be assigned a lottery number for referral to a district, and eligible for PRIORITY STATUS.</i>
My other child will be entering grades Kindergarten through 10th in the fall of 2020.	<i>Apply online during the application window (October-December 2019). You will be assigned a lottery number for referral to a district, and eligible for PRIORITY STATUS.</i>