

## How to LAUSD: Glossary

**Early Transitional Kindergarten (ETK):** ETK is currently meant for income-eligible 4-year-olds whose birthdays fall before September 2. In schools where ETK classes are small, they may be combined with the TK classrooms.

**Transitional Kindergarten (TK):** For the 2023-2024 school year, children who turn 5 between September 2 and February 2 will be eligible for TK. For the 2024-2025 school year children who turn 5 between September 2 and June 2 will be eligible. By 2024, all 4 year old students will be eligible for either TK or ETK programs, regardless of income.

**Kindergarten (K):** Students must be 5 years or older by September 1 in order to be accepted into a Kindergarten class. Currently, children are not required by law to attend Kindergarten in California and can start their formal education when entering first grade at age 6. There are bills that aim to change this in the coming years.

**Redshirting:** Redshirting is the practice of postponing the entrance of age-eligible children into [kindergarten](#). This is done to allow extra time for growth and development of a child in a specific area such as physical, socio-emotional, intellectual, or intellectual development.

**Home/Resident School:** The school you are assigned to based on your home address. Visit the [Resident School Finder](#) to identify your home school. Register through [e-choices](#).

**Zones of Choice:** Zones of Choice are geographic areas offering multiple school options. Students residing in a Zone of Choice are eligible to rank and apply to any of the schools in the Zone. Eligibility is based on home address and the enrollment capacity. More information and applications are available on the [Zone of Choice](#) website.

**Elementary School:** Schools that are intended for ages 4 to 11/12. They may include an ETK/TK class and run through 5th or 6th grade.

**Middle School:** Schools that are intended for ages 12-14. They may span from 5th or 6th grade through 8th grade.

**High School:** Schools that are intended for ages 14-18 (and up to 22 for special populations). They typically span from 9th to 12th grade.

**Span school:** A span school spans multiple levels (elementary and middle, middle and high, or elementary through high school). They may also include schools that only start in 1st or 2nd grade, such as in the case of specific magnet schools.

**LAUSD e-choices/Unified Enrollment:** An online portal that provides information about all LAUSD schools and programs, except for independent charter schools. Apply and track all school applications on this one platform.

**On-Time Application Period:** Applications on e-choices that are submitted between October and November of the year prior to enrollment (dates vary by year).

**Late Application Period:** Parents and guardians who missed the On-Time Enrollment period can apply for programs on e-choices during the late application window. It typically remains open between early February and mid April.

**District K-12 Open Enrollment Period:** The K-12 Open Enrollment period allows students to apply to any regular, grade-appropriate Los Angeles Unified public school with designated open enrollment seats on e-choices. Open enrollment usually starts around May with acceptance letters coming out around June.

**Magnet Program:** An LAUSD program whose eligibility is determined by a [Point Priority System](#). Each Magnet program provides unique theme-based instruction and transportation for students outside its enrollment zone. Apply to up to three Magnets through e-choices.

**Affiliated Charter School:** An Affiliated Charter is a partially autonomous LAUSD public school that was converted to an affiliated charter via a charter petition process. Residential priority is given and non-resident slots are offered available seats through a lottery. Apply for an unlimited number of Affiliated Charters through e-choices.

**Independent Charter School:** An independent Charter school received a charter status from the local school district via a charter petition process (which includes an annual review and renewal request every five years). Independent Charters are free, open to all (including students residing outside of LAUSD), and publicly funded but are considered independent educational institutions. Admission is often done through a lottery and waitlist system. There is no limit to how many Independent Charters can be applied to. Apply through each school's respective website.

**Co-location:** The designation of multiple educational programs such as Resident Schools, Charters and Magnet programs to the same school campus. Programs often share communal areas and specialized classrooms but are otherwise autonomous from one another. Each program is applied for on e-choices or on individual school websites.

**Dual Language Education Programs:** Students in Dual Language Education Programs receive instruction in all content areas in both English and a second language (referred to as the Target Language), beginning in kindergarten. The ratio of English to Target Language instruction time varies from school to school. Apply for up to three on e-choices.

**Gifted and Talented Education (GATE):** This umbrella term covers the following programs - resident School GATE Program, Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS), specific Magnet Programs, Honors and Advanced Placement classes, and the Conservatory of Fine Arts. Acceptance is based on eligibility criteria, availability, and specific conditions set by each school.

**Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS):** A GATE program for Gifted/talented students with proven evidence of high achievement in an identified area. Its purpose is to provide specialized and individualized education and support to fully develop each child's potential. It is not a separate program and students are incorporated into the school's traditional classroom for most instructional hours. Apply for up to three on e-choices website.

**Admission Criteria Schools (ACS):** These schools have additional selection requirements. They include single gender leadership programs with STEM focus, Early-College Programs, and Honors Programs for Advanced Studies. [ACS Schools](#) are currently offered in Middle and High school only. Apply for one program on e-choices.

**Permits with Transportation Programs (PWT)**: PWT is a voluntary integration program that provides students with experiences in integrated school settings. It is offered for middle and high school programs only. Apply for one program on e-choices.

**Intera-District permit**: Intera-District permits allow students from one LAUSD school to attend another school within the same district. One such request can be made per year. An applicant's Home School requires a specific reason to approve permit (such as a special program not locally available i.e. Spanish program, [I.B. school](#) designation..). The receiving school must also be willing to accept the applicant. Find [form](#) and [process](#) on e-choices.

**Outgoing Inter-District permit**: Outgoing Inter-District permits allow parents from LAUSD to attend schools in another district. One such request can be made per year. LAUSD must first release the applicant before they can apply to a school in another district. The receiving school must also be willing to accept the applicant. Find form and [process](#) on e-choices

**Incoming Inter-District Permits**: Incoming Inter-district permit applications are requested to allow students that reside within the boundaries of a school district other than the LAUSD to attend a school within the LAUSD.

**LAUSD Beyond the Bell**: Beyond the Bell offers free before and after school care to interested families. They offer primarily homework support, supervision, and some enrichment with a ratio of 1 adult to 40 or more students.

**Star Program**: Start Program is a non-profit organization that offers paid after school enrichment programming with lower student-adult ratio programming.