Good Foundations Academy

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Enrollment and Lottery Policy

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

Good Foundations Academy (GFA) will offer enrollment publicly to kindergarten through sixth grade students with an effort to invite all families to carefully review the GFA Charter and handbook and enroll their children if the parents value the school's philosophy and educational offering. GFA recognizes the value of inclusiveness, or providing access to a broad cross-section of the community, so that students from all backgrounds can benefit from the school's educational offering.

POLICY

In accordance with the Utah State Law, GFA will order, by random ("lottery") selection, all applicants for enrollment in a given grade. Once an applicant has been placed on the waitlist by lottery, that applicant will retain the spot on the list until the applicant's parent or legal guardian either refuses an offered opening (whether directly, or by default should they fail to respond to an offer), or elects to remove the child's name from the list.

Enrollment priority may be given to the following students up to 7.5% of the total student enrollment:

1. A child or grandchild of an individual who has actively participated in the founding of the school
2. A child or grandchild of a member of the Board of Directors
3. A sibling of an individual who is presently enrolled in the school
4. A child of an employee of the school
5. A child of a military service member as defined in Utah Code § 53H-11-202

Children who are given priority will be placed on the priority waitlist based on the order in which applications are received. For purposes of priority enrollment at GFA, the GFA Board of Directors defines "siblings" as dependents of the same parent(s) or legal guardian(s). This may include sisters and brothers, half-sisters and half-brothers, stepsisters and stepbrothers, adopted children and foster children. GFA reserves the right to require documentation of legal guardianship.

All lotteries are conducted by random computerized lottery.

PROCEDURES

Parents of potential new students must complete the enrollment application, at which time the child's name, subject to the past disciplinary and misconduct issues section below, is added to the appropriate grade-level enrollment pool. Potential students may be added to the enrollment pool at any time during the enrollment period, which begins in the month of January for the following school year.

The first lottery for the following year shall be held in January.

The Lottery will use the following selection process:

1. Insert students on the priority list.
2. Fill 6th grade openings, then place their siblings in respective grades' priority lists.
3. Fill 5th grade openings, then place their siblings in respective grades' priority lists.
4. Fill 4th grade openings, and so on, through each grade down to Kindergarten.

The office staff will fulfill steps 2-4 as needed. Following the January lottery, the office staff will offer open slots to applicants in writing within ten (10) days or otherwise notify them of their position on the waitlist. Parents have until the date listed on the written notification to accept enrollment for their student. Failure to respond in writing by the deadline will result in removal from the enrollment process.

Students are not officially enrolled until all paperwork is complete, approved, and turned into the front office, including a current Emergency Contact form.

Applications received following the January lottery will be added to the waitlist in the order that they are received.

When a vacancy occurs during the school year, that vacancy may or may not be filled at the school's discretion. If GFA chooses to fill the vacancies, the spaces will be filled from the waitlist with priority students first.

PAST DISCIPLINARY AND MISCONDUCT ISSUES

Any student seeking enrollment in GFA who was previously suspended or expelled from another school for serious misconduct may not be admitted to GFA until a thorough review of the student's prior conduct is evaluated by the school's administration and the school's administration approves the student to be admitted. In addition, GFA may not enroll a student from another school unless the student record from the previous school, including the discipline file (if applicable), is received or GFA's administration reviews the data gateway for any safe-school violation, reintegration, or threat assessment.

In accordance with Utah Code § 53G-8-205(3), GFA may deny admission to students who were expelled from GFA or any other school during the preceding twelve (12) months.

Consistent with Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-472-7, GFA may deny admission to students who have disciplinary procedures pending at their previous school until previous allegations have been resolved. GFA generally recognizes and honors disciplinary actions imposed on a student by another school. Accordingly, GFA may deny admission to a student who is currently under suspension or expulsion from another school.

In accordance with Utah Code § 53G-6-403(3)(b), GFA may deny admission to students who (i) have committed serious infractions of the law or school policies, including policies of GFA; (ii) have been guilty of chronic misbehavior which would, if it were to continue after the student was admitted to GFA, endanger persons or property, cause serious disruptions in the school, or place unreasonable burdens on school staff; or (iii) have any school safety incidents or safe-school violations.

Parents of students seeking admission to GFA must disclose in their application information about their student's past serious disciplinary actions and criminal convictions. If this information is not disclosed, if materially false or misleading information is provided in the application, or if information that would have been relevant to GFA's enrollment decision is omitted, and GFA discovers the omission or misrepresentation after the student has been enrolled in the school, GFA may place the student's enrollment under review while GFA investigates the matter. Following the investigation, GFA may take appropriate action in accordance with this and other school policy, which may include but is not limited to continued enrollment, continued enrollment subject to conditions, or recission of the student's enrollment if the GFA determines that the undisclosed information would have provided a lawful basis to deny admission at the time of the application.

During the investigation process mentioned above, GFA may restrict a student's attendance at the school if deemed necessary by the school to protect student safety or facilitate the review.

Situations involving students receiving special education and related services under the IDEA shall be handled in a manner consistent with applicable laws and GFA policy.

PROVISIONAL ENROLLMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH PRIOR BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

GFA may provide for provisional enrollment of students with prior behavior problems and establish conditions under which enrollment of such students would be permitted or continued.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS FROM A PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS SCHOOL

Federal law requires that a student who attends a persistently dangerous public school, or a student who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of a public school that the student attends, be allowed to attend a different safe public school within the same LEA.

The Utah State Board of Education defines "persistently dangerous school" as a school where at least three percent (3%) of students for three (3) consecutive school years have been suspended or expelled for (a) a reported violent criminal offense that took place on school property or at a school sponsored activity; or (b) a federal gun free school violation as defined in § 20 U.S.C. 7961. *See* Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-714.

GFA is not and never has been a persistently dangerous school, nor has it ever been remotely close to being designated a persistently dangerous school. In addition, GFA only has one school building. However, GFA will allow eligible students from other persistently dangerous schools, as well as victim students as described above from other schools, to enroll in GFA subject to GFA's enrollment capacity, this policy, and other applicable policies of the school.

COMPLIANCE

Our enrollment process at GFA will not make any distinction on account of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, or ancestry of any student who seeks admission.

Board Reviewed & Approved: 9/14/2026