



Applying to Rising Tide – FAQ

Q: What criteria do you use to select students?

A: Rising Tide Charter Public School follows all Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulations for charter school enrollment. In accordance with state law, admission is open to all students and does not involve any selective criteria such as academic performance or family income. Enrollment is determined through a public lottery process. As permitted by DESE guidelines, preferences are extended to siblings of currently enrolled students and to applicants who reside within the school's designated region.

Q: Should we wait to apply if my child is considering both Rising Tide and another local high school?

A: No, we recommend applying during the enrollment window, as students can only enroll if they have applied during an open period. The application is simple and non-binding. We're happy to meet with you to answer any questions—contact us at admissions@risingtide.org to set up a tour!

Q: If I apply this year, will I have a better chance of getting in a different year?

A: No, each application cycle is considered independently. You should only apply during the current enrollment period if you wish to enroll your child for the 2025-2026 school year. Student currently enrolled at Rising Tide should not re-apply for subsequent school years. We assume current student will continue at Rising Tide unless they have completed a withdrawal form.

Q: I missed the application deadline. Can you add my child's name to the waitlist?

A: We cannot add names to existing waiting lists after the deadline. We must adhere to charter school requirements, which include publicly announcing and accepting applications for at least a 30-day window. If we exhaust a grade-level waitlist, we may open an additional enrollment application period for that specific grade.

Q: Can my child repeat, skip, or be placed in a different grade level at Rising Tide?

A: Grade placement is based on the student's academic record and Rising Tide's program. Once enrolled, we will work with the student and family to determine the appropriate grade level.

Q: What is the likelihood that my child will receive an offer of admission on lottery day?

A: Unfortunately, we are not able to provide a probability on the likelihood that your child will receive an admission offer. Typically, applicants to grade 5, and grades 9-12, are more likely to receive an admission offer than students in grades 6-8. That said, we frequently hold waitlists for applicants in all grade levels and admissions patterns fluctuate year over year.

Q: When is the best time to schedule a visit to Rising Tide?

We offer virtual and in-person open houses, small group sessions, and tours with our Head of School. Fall is the best time to visit before enrolling. We also host an Accepted Students Day each spring for admitted and waitlisted students. Event dates are posted on our website and social media. To schedule a visit outside these times, email us at admissions@risingtide.org.