

---

# ***William T. Dwyer High School***

---



---

## ***INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM***

### ***ADMISSIONS POLICY***

---

William T. Dwyer High School is one of six high schools offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in The School District of Palm Beach County, which is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the country. All schools in Palm Beach County are required to adhere to the lottery-style system of admissions designed and implemented by the school district.

#### **Mission Statement:**

The staff of William T. Dwyer High School is committed to providing a world-class education with excellence and equity to empower each student to reach his or her highest potential with the most effective staff to foster the knowledge, skills, and ethics required for responsible citizenship and productive careers.

#### **Choice and In-House Programs:**

School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) Choice Programs reflect the diversity of the District and are designed to attract all Palm Beach County students. Families with students entering pre-kindergarten through grade 12 have the opportunity to choose from an array of **Choice** and **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** theme-based curricula offerings at the elementary, middle, and high school levels that provide innovative and rigorous academic instruction by specially trained teachers.

Choice and In-House Programs have been established in elementary, middle, and high schools to provide an opportunity for students to engage in intensive study in specific areas. Choice and **In-House programs** offer the opportunity for students to discover their talents and explore their interests while focusing on academic rigor. These programs provide students with a pathway to post-secondary

education and careers. Programs include the K–12 Arts continuum, K–12 International Baccalaureate continuum, K–12 Dual Language continuum, elementary and secondary Cambridge Academy programs, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs at all levels, and elementary Montessori, STEAM (STEM + Arts), Environmental and Animal Science, and Health and Wellness programs. Students may participate in an “in–house” program if the program is only being offered to students whose attendance boundary is zoned for the school (“In–House program”), or they may choose to attend a program that is only offered at a school outside of their regular attendance boundary (Choice program).

All Choice and Career Academy programs require a Choice application and selection through a Choice lottery process. These programs are available to all students, regardless of zoning. If the student is applying for a Choice program that is offered at his/her zoned school, the zoned school program may be listed as the first choice.

### **Choice Transportation Zones**

Choice Program students may receive transportation regardless of their proximity to the Choice school. Parents must provide transportation to the closest bus stop in order to be eligible. Bus stops will only be available within the Choice Transportation Zone for each school and additional stops will not be created.

### **Online Application for Choice Program Lottery:**

The online application is easy to use and allows parents/legal guardians the ability to manage their child’s application throughout the application and lottery selection process. Parents/legal guardians will also have the option to apply and check the status of their application on their mobile devices. Applying online is the most efficient way to submit and manage your child’s application. Using the Family Dashboard, your online account will allow you to track the status of your application.

### **Paper Application:**

A paper application will be accepted if access to the online application is limited. The paper application must be submitted during published application deadlines (application deadlines can be found [here](#)).

### **Student Eligibility\*:**

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is an academically challenging and balanced program of education that prepares students in grades 11–12 for effective participation in a rapidly globalizing world and for postsecondary success in college and career. Students study at least two languages and increase understanding of diverse cultures. Due to its rigorous nature, preparation for the IB Diploma Programme is offered through the IB Middle Years Programme curricula in the 9th and 10th grades or through other accelerated curricula. The IB diploma leads to advanced standing in universities throughout the world. The IB Diploma Programme framework includes required courses within six subject groups: Studies in Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, and the Arts. Schools tailor course sequences to meet each school’s focus. Algebra I or Algebra I Honors and Spanish or French for high school credit are highly recommended to prepare students for the rigor of the program. These courses do not give any preference for the student in the lottery.

All students applying to this program must meet the following eligibility criteria: 3.0 GPA. Grades 11–12:  
IB DP

\*From Palm Beach County Choice and Career Academy Programs Booklet October, 2022-2023

## **Choice Program Eligibility Application for Appeal**

### **Appeals are only accepted for the following reasons:**

1. A technical problem during the audition process (any relevant malfunction, such as defective equipment or a power failure in the building).
2. A technical problem during the eligibility process (such as mathematical error).
3. Inequity: Failure to provide appropriate accommodations according to the child's documented disability or limited English proficiency during the student's audition or eligibility processes

### **Important Information about the Appeals Process**

The appeals process is governed by Policy 5.016 and is described in the District's [Procedures Manual for Choice Programs](#).

1. Parents may request an Appeals Committee hearing within five (5) school days from the date of the notification indicating child's program assignment, wait pool status, or determination of ineligibility. A request for Appeal Form 2418 must be submitted to the Director of Choice and Career Options and includes a written explanation of the alleged technical problem or inequity. Any pertinent information supporting the appeal should also be attached to the form.
2. After the written Request for Appeal is received from the parent/guardian, the Choice Appeals Review Committee will investigate the alleged inequity or technical problem to determine its merit. A Choice Appeals Review Committee is established annually under the direction of the Director of Choice and Career Options and consists of a diverse group of professional educators and administrators with knowledge of Choice and Career Options programs and District policies.
3. At the completion of the Appeals Committee review of appeals request, one of the following actions will occur within five (5) school days:
  - o The Director (or designee) of Choice and Career Options will send a letter to the parent/guardian denying the appeal.
  - o The Director (or designee) of Choice and Career Options will send a letter to the parent/guardian approving the appeal and notify the effected school of the need for a second eligibility review.

### **Student Reassignment**

Parents/legal guardians may request a student reassignment to a school outside the student's attendance area as outlined in the School Board [Policy 5.015](#).

#### **Submitting an Application**

1. [Submit your application online](#). The window to apply for reassignment for the first semester of the 2023-24 school year is May 1 - June 30, 2023. A letter with specific reason(s) why reassignment is being requested must be included with the application. Late applications will not be accepted.
2. Once you submit a reassignment request, please allow a **minimum** of 4–6 weeks for review and response. Some requests may take longer to review depending upon your reason for the request.

**Schools Open for Reassignment**

The list of schools approved for each semester of the 2022–2023 school year can change at any time during the application submission and review period as enrollment is constantly changing. Applicants requesting a transfer to a school that is not on the approved reassignment list will not be considered. Applying to an available school does not guarantee acceptance. Your request must be reviewed and support board policy.

- [List of available schools](#)

**Transportation**

Transportation will not be provided for students on reassignment.