

# WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.wbps.org



## "Learn to Thrive in a Dynamic World"

### *Marie V. Duffy Elementary School*

"Governor's School of Excellence"

Pamela S. Blalock, Principal

### *Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School*

Robert D. Hayzler, Principal

Christopher Herdman  
Superintendent

Sandy Cammarata  
Business Administrator

Kenneth Russo  
Director of  
Curriculum & Instruction

Marie Giantomasi  
Director of Special Education  
& Child Study Team Services

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Child Study Team  
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137 East Central Avenue  
Wharton, NJ 07885

## Wharton Choice Program - District Profile 2024-2025

The Wharton School District is entering its eleventh year as a "Choice" District. This program allows for students, from other districts, the ability to apply to enroll in our schools. Being a Choice School generates revenue that is able to support programs that benefit all district children.

**County:** Morris

**District Grades:** Pre-K - 8

**Approved Choice Grades:** K - 8

**Number of Students Enrolled in District:** 751

**Choice Parent Information Center:** Michelle Obiedzinski, 973-361-2592

**Email:** [mobiedzinski@wbps.org](mailto:mobiedzinski@wbps.org)

**Website:** [www.wbps.org](http://www.wbps.org)

### *Choice Seats Available for 2024-2025 School Year*

The purpose of this profile is to inform parents of choice seat availability **before** the application deadline of Dec. 01, 2023. After the deadline, the information will be outdated.

The Department of Education limits the number of choice seats that each district can fill. The "maximum number of new choice students that can be enrolled" tells parents how many *new* choice students the district can enroll in the upcoming school year. If more than the maximum number of applications is received, a lottery will be held and a waitlist will be developed. **Waitlists will be developed for all approved choice grades even if no seats are currently available.**

**Maximum Number of New Choice Students that can be Enrolled: 9**

### *Choice Seats Available for the 2024-2025 School Year*

Grade	Seat availability per grade
Kindergarten	1
Grade 1	1
Grade 2	0
Grade 3	0
Grade 4	0
Grade 5	0
Grade 6	0
Grade 7	7
Grade 8	0
Total	9

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District Choice Policies	
a. The district accepts Tier 2 students (see definition below).	Yes
b. The district gives enrollment preference to students who have a sibling currently attending the choice district, provided they will enroll in a choice-approved grade/program and they meet any program-specific criteria and the district has seats available in the desired grades.	Yes
c. The district gives enrollment preference to choice students who have completed the terminal grade of the sending district (i.e., students who attend a choice district with grades that terminate before 12th grade and with a natural progression to this choice district), provided they will enroll in a choice-approved grade/program and they meet any program-specific criteria.	No
d. The district gives enrollment preference to resident students who move <i>before the application deadline</i> . If resident students move and file choice applications for the following year prior to the deadline, the district will give them enrollment preference (i.e., accept them ahead of other applicants, but after the enrollment preference students described in b. and c. above), provided there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/programs and the students meet any program-specific criteria. <i>If the district has already reached its approved choice enrollment maximum, this preference will not apply.</i>	Yes
e. The district gives special consideration to resident students who move <i>after</i> the application deadline. Students in this situation may apply as late applicants and be added to the front of the district’s waitlist, provided the students will enroll in a choice-approved grade/program and they meet any program-specific criteria. No additional choice seats above the maximum will be approved by the NJDOE to accommodate these students.	No

## Transportation Note to Parents

**Transportation of choice students is not guaranteed.** If a student is eligible for transportation (within 20 miles of the school) and the cost will exceed the maximum amount designated in the Annual Appropriations Act, the parent/guardian will be given aid in lieu of transportation and, in some cases, the option of receiving the transportation and paying the additional amount over the maximum. By Aug. 1, 2023, parents should receive notification of their transportation options from the resident district. For more information, read the [Transportation Procedures for choice students](#).

## Tiers Explained

**Tier 1 students** are students who are enrolled in a NJ public school in their resident school district during the time of application and for the entire year (2023-2024) immediately preceding enrollment in a choice district. If a student moved during the school year and attended the resident public school of his/her old district of residence, he/she is also considered Tier 1. Choice districts must first fill their available seats with Tier 1 students. If the number of Tier 1 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a lottery to randomly select students. Charter school students are considered to be Tier 1. To qualify as Tier 1 for kindergarten, a student must be attending a state-funded preschool in his or her resident district or a student resides in a district that does not offer a state-funded preschool program or a student has a sibling currently attending the choice district. **Most students applying for kindergarten are in Tier 1.**

**Tier 2 students** include NJ residents who have **not** attended their resident public school for the entire year immediately prior to enrollment in the desired choice district and do **not** otherwise meet the requirements for Tier 1. This would include students who have been attending public school outside their districts of residence or private school. **Choice districts are not obligated to accept Tier 2 students.** If a choice district accepts Tier 2 applicants, they may do so only after all of the qualified Tier 1 applicants have been accepted. If the number of Tier 2 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a Tier 2 lottery to select students.