



640 Evenhouse Rd., Lake Alfred, FL 33850
863-268-7178
Darryl Jemison, Principal

Controlled Open Enrollment (COE)

Discovery High School (DHS) participates in the **Controlled Open Enrollment (COE)** process, which is a Florida state mandate allowing parents to apply to any public school in the state that has not reached capacity, regardless of their home zone.

As a charter school, DHS manages its own application process but aligns with the general Polk County timelines.

1. Eligibility & Capacity

- **Capacity Rule:** A school is generally considered "open" for COE if it is operating at less than **90% capacity**.
- **Capacity Updates:** DHS updates its capacity determinations by grade level every **12 weeks** and posts this information on the school website.
- **Residency:** While any Florida resident can apply, preference is often given to students residing within Polk County.
- **Continuity:** A student who transfers to DHS through COE may remain at the school until they graduate.
 - **Disciplinary Standing:** Students subject to a current expulsion or suspension are not eligible for COE.
 - **Transportation:** is limited to specific areas.

2. The Application Window

The COE process for DHS typically follows a specific annual timeline:

- **Open Enrollment Window:** Usually opens in **Mid January** and runs through **the end of January** (e.g., for the 2026-27 school year, the window was to be Jan 16 – Jan 30, 2026).
 - **Notification:** Parents are notified of their status (**Accepted or Waitlisted**) via email or phone.
 - **Post Open Enrollment:** Applications will continue to be accepted and students will be either accepted or waitlisted depending on space available.

3. Waitlist Acceptances

When students are placed on the waitlist, they are accepted based on the date the application is submitted unless priority selections dictate differently.

- **Preference Categories:** Florida law outlines certain groups that receive priority during open enrollment and the acceptance process, including:
 1. **Siblings** of students currently enrolled at the school.
 2. Children of **military personnel** moving due to orders.
 3. **Staff children** (Discovery Schools & Governing Board).
 4. 8th Grade students at Discovery Academy; however, **MUST** apply during Open Enrollment.

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5. Students that are applying for either the Business Academy or AP Capstone Programs.

4. Acceptance & Registration

- **Notification:** Parents are usually notified of their status (Accepted or Waitlisted) via email or phone call by **mid-to-late April**.
- **Deadline to Accept:** Once an offer is made (contact is attempted), parents typically have a short window (often **5 business days**) to accept the seat.
- **Commitment:** If a student accepts a seat, they may be responsible for providing their own **transportation** to the school, as the transportation zone is limited.

Important Note for 8th Graders

Students from Discovery Academy do NOT automatically roll up to Discovery High School. Current 8th-grade students must submit a Discovery High School application during their open enrollment window if they wish to continue with Discovery Schools and will be given priority enrollment..



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