

RFI #001: PowerSchool Questions

1. How many districts and/or different LEAs are taking part in this choice process?

Any Connecticut resident may apply to RSCO, which uses a centralized application. Three school choice options (3 technical high schools, the Open Choice program, and magnet schools) are included on the uniform application provided by the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO). These options are currently differentiated, but contained within a single application.

- Three CT technical high schools (CTECS) currently offer seats and are presented first to the applicant on the RSCO application if the applicant is applying to Grade 9.
- Twenty seven Open Choice districts offer seats and are presented second on the RSCO application to the applicant.
- Forty two magnet schools operated by five different entities offer seats and are presented third on the RSCO application to the applicant.

2. Would the CT DoE consider extending the due date for submission?

Unfortunately, we are unable to extend the submission deadline.

3. Is your preference for a centralized choice application solution to support all choice offerings or are you also considering utilizing multiple, separate solutions for the varying needs of the district/LEAs?

The centralized choice application will support the three programs identified in #1 and any other related programs that SDE may add over time.

4. Are the choice application and lottery timelines the same for each district/LEA/program? If not, can you share a list of the various time schedules?

The programs timelines generally match, although currently CTECS initial placements precede the other programs. Initial CTECS offers are provided in February. The Open Choice and magnet rounds follow shortly thereafter and run throughout the lottery cycle (typically February through September).

5. In item 5b in the Scope of Work, can you share how you would define 'placement rounds?'

Entities declare seats, the lottery software runs, placement offers are made, and School Messenger messages are sent to applicants who have received an offer. These applicants have a certain amount of time to respond. Rounds continue to run throughout the lottery cycle (typically February through September).

6. In item 5b in the Scope of Work, can you describe the sorting algorithms you will be needing for the various choice district and program offerings, as well as associated preferences/priorities?

The lottery assigns applicants to seats based on protocols written by the schools' operators and the Regional School Choice Office that take into account various factors, such as siblings, staff associations, residence location, town of residence, block group, neighborhood, distance from the school, etc. Those protocols vary by operator, program and school.

7. In item 5g in the Scope of Work, can you share the difference in how you define the 'ongoing waitlist' versus the 'late applicant pool'?

On-time applicants (applicants who apply on or before the application deadline) receive preference over late applications (applicants who submit applications during the late application period) but RSCO constantly appends late applications to the bottom of the "ongoing waitlist" since RSCO accepts late applications until September 30th.

8. Which districts and LEAs are participating?

See the response to question 1.