

NYC Autism Charter Schools

2025-2026 Enrollment Application

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NYC Autism Charter School (NYCACs) operates two schools, NYCACS East Harlem and NYCACS Bronx. Each school will hold a lottery for students whose birthdate falls between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

Preference is given based on the following criteria in the following order:

1. Children who have a primary educational classification of autism and/or a medical diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and who are the sibling by birth, adoption, or parental marriage of a child currently enrolled at or admitted to (via the lottery) NYCACS East Harlem or Bronx.
2. Children with a primary educational classification of autism and/or a medical diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) AND who reside in Community School District 4 for East Harlem or Community School District 12 for the Bronx.
3. Children with a primary educational classification of autism and/or a medical diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who reside outside of Community School District 4 or Community School District 12 for the Bronx.
4. Children with no confirmed educational classification of autism and/or medical diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or who are outside the target age range (Kindergarten equivalent) AND who reside in Community School District 4 or Community School District 12 for the Bronx.
5. Children with no confirmed educational classification of autism and/or medical diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or who are outside the target age range (Kindergarten equivalent) who reside in Community School District 4 or Community School District 12 for the Bronx.

All students, however, regardless of diagnosis and New York State school district of residence may apply and will be considered.

INSTRUCTIONS

This application may require some time and information-gathering to complete. As long as you use the same device to access the application, you can leave and come back to it as many times as you like before submitting.

DEADLINE

Please complete the Application and upload all documentation by **April 1, 2025**. While

additional information aside from the application is not required, it is necessary in order to access the lottery preferences listed above. Applications that are incomplete and/or submitted after **April 1, 2025**, will **NOT** be included in the lottery but will be added to the waitlist after names from the lottery have been drawn.

January 1, 2025: NYCACS Application becomes available on the website.

April 1, 2025: Application and **all supporting documents** must be submitted by this date. An email confirming your application submission will be sent upon receipt.

May 12, 2025: NYCACS East Harlem public lottery is held at 09:30AM at NYC Autism Charter School East Harlem.

May 13, 2025: NYCACS Bronx public lottery is held at 09:30AM at NYC Autism Charter School Bronx.

May 24, 2025: Letters are sent informing ALL parents/applicants of lottery outcome including waitlist status.

Please be sure to complete the application in full (including documents from the Other Documents section below) and sign in the area indicated before submitting.

Which NYCACS school location are you applying to?

- East Harlem
- Bronx
- Both (East Harlem & Bronx)

In order to facilitate review and processing, please respond to all information requested.

STUDENT INFORMATION (*indicates a required field)

- *Child's First Name _____
- *Child's Last Name (Surname) _____
- *Child's Date of Birth _____

- Child's Gender (Male/ Female/Non-binary/Prefer not to answer) _____
- *Child's Primary Educational Classification or Medical Diagnosis _____
- *Child's Home Address (Street, City, Zip) _____
- Community School District (if living in NYC) or School District (if living outside of NYC). Your response may qualify your child for an admissions preference _____

Parent/Guardian Information (*indicates required field)

- *Parent/ Guardian's First Name _____
- *Parent/Guardian's Last Name (Surname) _____
- Phone Number _____
- Alternate Phone Number _____
- Email Address _____

The following questions are related to siblings. They are not required but may be helpful in preference selection.

Is a sibling **currently attending** either of the NYC Autism Charter Schools? Your response may qualify your child for an admissions preference.

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate the following:

- Sibling's Full Name (First and Last Name) _____
- Date of Birth _____
- School (NYCACS Bronx or NYCACS East Harlem) _____

Is a sibling **also applying** to NYC Autism Charter Schools for the 2025-2026 school year? Your response may qualify your child for an admissions preference.

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate the following and **be sure to complete a separate application for that sibling**:

- Sibling's Full Name (First and Last) _____
- Date of Birth _____

OTHER VOLUNTARY DOCUMENTS:

1. Current and past Individualized Educational Plans (IEP's) and/or Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP's) if applicable;
2. Medical and/or educational documentation (e.g., Medical Evaluation, Neurological Evaluation, or Psychological Evaluation) substantiating your child's diagnosis/classification of autism or autism spectrum disorder (this is not mandatory but **required for lottery preference**);
3. Evaluation materials (either previously available through your child's school district or as a result of an independent evaluation). These materials should include a description of their current levels of performance related to: adaptive functioning, communication, receptive/expressive language, and behavior/social skills;
4. Lottery Questionnaire (please see next page below after signature) to be completed by the child's parent/guardian, ideally in conjunction with the child's current teacher/caregiver(s).

If mailing or emailing a hard copy of this enrollment application, please be sure to include copies of any/all voluntary documents with that application.

Non-Discrimination Statement: A charter school shall not discriminate against or limit the admission of any student on any unlawful basis, including on the basis of ethnicity, gender, disability, intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, athletic ability, race, creed, national origin, religion or ancestry. A school may not require any action by a student or family (such as an admissions test, interview, essay, attendance at an information session, etc.) in order for an applicant to either receive or submit an application for admission to that school. However, NYC Autism Charter School provides an academic program specifically designed for children on the autism spectrum. Preferences related to this specialization have been approved by the school's authorizer and are permissible.

Legal Compliance Statement: NYC Autism Charter Schools use a random, non-discriminatory public lottery process for admitting students in the event that there are more eligible applicants than available seats. This process complies with all applicable laws, including the requirements of the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 (as amended, the "Charter Law") and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. NYC Autism Charter Schools recognize that, under the Charter Law, the Committee on Special Education (CSE) of each student's district of residence is responsible for assessing student needs as well as determining an appropriate educational program and placement for that student. NYC Autism Charter Schools also recognize the responsibility to employ best efforts to meet specialized student needs within its available programs and resources.

Your signature indicates your agreement that materials contained in your application can be reviewed by the Admissions Review Committee and forwarded to the District Committee on Special Education. Your signature verifies that all information contained in this application is accurate and truthful.

Signature:

Date:

Lottery Questionnaire

NOTE: This is not the application. It is a voluntary supporting document. Parents/guardians, caregivers, teachers and/or service providers are welcome to complete this form.

Name of Person Completing and Relationship to Child: _____

Directions: Please do your best to complete this applicant profile as accurately and thoroughly as possible.

1. Shows independence with toileting and other self-care routines

- Not at all independent
- Requires assistance
- Almost independent (still requires some reminders and prompts)
- Independent

2. Shows independence with eating and mealtime routines

- Not at all independent
- Requires assistance
- Almost independent (still requires some reminders and prompts)
- Independent

3. Demonstrates safety awareness in home and community

- None
- Very limited
- Monitoring required
- Independent

4. Tolerates novel or infrequent situations or activities (e.g., haircut, doctor)

- Never
- Infrequently
- Sometimes
- Almost always

5. Waits for access to preferred objects or activities (e.g., waits for a cookie)

- Never
- Infrequently
- Sometimes
- Almost always

6. Waits for attention from others (e.g., waits for an adult to come play with him/her)

- Never
- Infrequently
- Sometimes
- Almost always

7. Looks in response to name (if vocal response, please indicate – e.g., says “What?” when name is called)

- Never
- Sometimes
- Most often
- Always

8. Follows instructions

- Is not able to follow any instructions
- Follows some simple, single-step instructions
- Follows a large number of simple instructions
- Follows varied, multi-step instructions

9. Identifies objects and pictures

- Cannot identify objects or pictures
- Can identify a small number of objects and/or pictures
- Can identify a large number of objects and/or pictures
- Has a large repertoire of object/picture labels, at or above age-level

10. Classifies objects and pictures according to categories

- Cannot classify objects or pictures
- Classifies a small number of objects/pictures according to simple categories (e.g., food)
- Classifies a large number of objects/pictures according to simple categories
- Classifies a large number of objects/pictures according to more abstract categories (e.g., things that are sharp)

11. Imitates fine and gross motor movements

- Cannot imitate
- Imitates a small number of movements
- Imitates a large number of movements
- Demonstrates generalized imitation (will imitate any movement, even if not specifically trained)

12. Demonstrates reading skills

- None
- Limited
- Moderate
- Age-matched

13. Demonstrates writing skills

- None
- Limited
- Moderate
- Age-matched

14. Demonstrates math skills

- None
- Limited
- Moderate
- Age-matched

15. Matches objects and pictures

- No ability to match
- Matches identical objects and pictures
- Matches non-identical objects and pictures
- Demonstrates more sophisticated matching (e.g., pictures to objects, text to object)

16. Uses vocal communication

- Does not use spoken language
- Uses single words
- Uses some short sentences/phrases
- Uses complex sentences

17. Answers questions

- Cannot answer any questions
- Answers basic questions
- Answers more complex questions (e.g., when, why, how)
- Answers age-matched questions (e.g., inference questions, questions related to perspective-taking)

18. Asks questions

- Does not ask any questions
- Asks simple questions (e.g., where, what's that)
- Asks more complex questions (e.g., which)
- Asks age-appropriate questions (e.g., why, how)

19. Engages in social interactions with adults and peers

- Never/avoids
- Very limited amount
- Sometimes
- Frequently

20. Demonstrates leisure/play skills

- No appropriate play skills
 - Very limited amount
 - Some
 - A large repertoire
-

21. Exhibits challenging or disruptive behavior

- Severe
- Moderate
- Mild
- None

Please describe the behavior:

22. Exhibits repetitive behavior that may interfere with learning (e.g., hand flapping, spinning objects, lining things up)

- High rates
- Moderate rates
- Low rates
- None

Please describe the behavior:

23. Duration of student's day in 1:1, specialized instruction

- All
- Most
- Part
- Very Little

24. Overall level of functioning

- Severe
- Moderate
- Mild
- Age-appropriate

Other Comments
