

## **DHSP Summer Lottery FAQs**

### **Can I sign up for a single week of DHSP Summer Programs?**

The “mini-session” is a single week. All other sessions are 2 weeks. **Sessions cannot be split or combined.**

### **Can my child attend half days in the DHSP Summer Programs?**

No, DHSP does not offer any half-day options through the DHSP Summer Lottery. All DHSP Summer Lottery programs are full-day programs that run from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. daily.

### **Do you have any summer programming the last two weeks of August?**

No. All DHSP summer programs end August 16, 2024.

### **Does DHSP Provide Transportation to DHSP Summer Camps and Programs?**

No, families are responsible for getting their children to and from camp.

### **What types of activities are provided in the summer programs? Is there swimming?**

Please see the sample schedule for Community Schools Camps [[here](#)] and for Summer Youth Programs [[here](#)]. All summer programs include weekly swimming opportunities at local pools.

### **My child will be in Kindergarten next year and has not completed Junior Kindergarten. Can my child still apply?**

No, rising Kindergarteners are only eligible to apply to the DHSP Summer Lottery if they have completed a year of Junior Kindergarten at a Cambridge Public School. DHSP Summer Camps are designed for children who have completed Junior Kindergarten to ensure that all participants are developmentally prepared for camp programming, curriculum, and experience.

### **Can I enter more than one child through the same application?**

Yes. You need only one Viewpoint account and will enter information for siblings on the same application.

In the online application, you will be asked how many children in your household are applying to the DHSP Summer Lottery. If you select more than one child, additional fields will appear where you can fill out specific information for each child. **All fields must be filled out for each child for them to be eligible for the lottery.**

After submitting your application, each child's eligibility and application will be reviewed by DHSP staff. You will receive separate notifications and letters for each child that you include in your application.

### **Will siblings be guaranteed placement together?**

Siblings receive the same lottery number and are given preference to be placed together. However, sibling placement depends on seat availability at each site for each child's age group and is not guaranteed.

### **Can I apply after the application window closes?**

Applications submitted after the lottery deadline will be automatically added to the Waiting Pool.

We anticipate a second round of placement offers in May, after families who received a first-round placement offer decline their seats.

### **Can I make changes to my application after I have submitted it?**

Changes cannot be made by the applicant once an application has been submitted. **Please review your application for accuracy before submitting it.**

If you make a critical error on your application (ex. you spelled your child's name wrong, entered the wrong grade, or accidentally selected the wrong program selection), you can contact DHSP at [askdhsp@cambridgema.gov](mailto:askdhsp@cambridgema.gov) or 617-349-6200 to update the application. **Changes must be made before the application deadline.**

### **How do I know my application was submitted?**

You will receive a confirmation email from [noreply@viewpointcloud.com](mailto:noreply@viewpointcloud.com) after submitting your application. If you think you submitted your application, but did not receive a confirmation email, log into your Viewpoint account to see if your application is still in draft form. Follow the application prompts until you complete and submit your application.

## **When and how will I find out if my child has a seat at a Summer Camp / Program?**

Families who submit their application by March 3 will be notified of a summer placement offer or Waiting Pool placement the week of March 25. **Families will have 7 days to accept their seat by registering in Trax or to decline their seat.**

This information will be provided through a message and notification letter on Viewpoint. Families will receive an email message from [noreply@viewpointcloud.com](mailto:noreply@viewpointcloud.com) with the subject line “City of Cambridge, MA” letting them know a document has been issued to their Viewpoint account. Log into your Viewpoint account to access the letter details.

## **Why are you holding a Lottery for DHSP Camps and Summer Programs?**

Every year, there are more applicants than there are available seats. We have learned that the first-come, first-served registration model negatively impacts our ability to equitably serve families, especially families that are historically underserved. We have therefore adjusted our registration process and enrollment model to better prioritize equitable access.

## **What is the criteria for the DHSP Summer Lottery process?**

Each applicant is assigned a randomized lottery number.

A set amount of available “priority” seats at each site and each grade level are designated for a specific group of children with priority income preference (65% or less of Area Median Income (AMI)). Only applicants who have applied through Viewpoint and meet the criteria of that specific group are entered into the lottery for the priority seats.

Applications are reviewed so that eligible students are considered first for the designated seats. If a match can’t be made, they will be placed in the Waiting Pool for designated seats and entered into the Lottery for the general seats. If the priority seats do not fill in the lottery, they will not be automatically filled with applicants outside of the defined group. This allows a program to ensure the seats remain open for post-lottery applicants who meet the specific group criteria.

### **We also consider the following preferences:**

- **Sibling Preference:** Siblings of children who are offered a camp seat through the Lottery are prioritized for a seat, but not guaranteed one.
- **Equitable Access (Hardship) Preference:** Eligible applicants who are experiencing homelessness or are in Department of Children and Families (DCF) custody.

## **What are my child's chances of getting into camp?**

Every year, there are more applicants than there are available seats.

Seat offers depend on how many applications DHSP receives for each grade level, location, and session; your child's lottery number; and whether your child meets one or more priority / preference factors.

## **What happens if my child is placed in the Waiting Pool?**

Every year, there are more applicants to the DHSP Summer Lottery than we have seats available in our programs. We anticipate a second round of placement offers in May, after families who received a first-round placement offer decline their seats. You will be notified through email and your Viewpoint account if an opening becomes available for your child.

## **I accepted my offer, but I need to drop a session. What do I do?**

Send a message through your Viewpoint application or contact us at [askdhsp@cambridgema.gov](mailto:askdhsp@cambridgema.gov) or 617-349-6200.

If you would no longer like your child to be in the Waiting Pool, you can fill out the [Opt out of Waiting Pool Form](#) to remove your child from it.

## **My child received an offer; why do I need to enroll them in the camp session(s) in Trax? What is Trax?**

The offer that your child received through our application system, Viewpoint, needs to be accepted or declined by you.

To accept the offer, the child needs to be enrolled in the summer session(s) in Trax, DHSP's online enrollment system. Your offer letter has the Trax link that you need to complete this step. Enroll your child in the "DHSP Summer" Trax membership and the sessions listed on their offer letter **within 7 days of receiving your child's offer letter**. Once you have completed these steps, your child will be successfully enrolled in their summer program.

View Trax enrollment instructions: [www.cambridgema.gov/TraxInstructions](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TraxInstructions).