AFTERSCHOOL LOTTERY FAQ

City of Decatur Children and Youth Services (CYS)
K-8th Afterschool Programs

Q: When can I register my child for the afterschool lottery?

A: Starting at 10:00 am February 18, 2020 and continuing through 6:00 pm on April 17, 2020 children who will be in K-8th grades in the 2020-21 school year may be registered for the Afterschool lottery for 2020-21 programs. On April 24, 2020, Children and Youth Services (CYS) will activate the lottery spin to place registrants in the available afterschool spots for 10 programs (Clairemont Animal Crackers, Glennwood Animal Crackers, Oakhurst Animal Crackers, Westchester Animal Crackers, Winnona Park Animal Crackers, Talley Street Whiz Kids, Legacy Park Whiz Kids, Ebster Whiz Kids, Fifth Avenue Whiz Kids, and Project REAL at Renfroe Middle School).

Q: Who is eligible to participate in the afterschool lottery?

A: The City of Decatur’s afterschool programs are available to all rising K-8th graders (children who will be in K-8th grades in Fall 2020) who are enrolled in City Schools of Decatur.

If your family is new to Decatur but you do not yet have a property deed or lease in the city, you will not be able to enter your child in the lottery. Once you have submitted proof of residency, you may register your child; however, you must be enrolled at one of the City Schools of Decatur.

The City of Decatur does not operate the pre-K afterschool program at College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center. Please contact ECLC directly to inquire about the program there.

Q: Which program do I need?

A: Rising K-2nd graders may register for the lottery their school site only. Families should register children for the eligible activity via Lottery Registration on WebTrac. Children may not attend programs at a school they do not attend.

Rising 3rd-5th graders at Talley Street Upper Elementary School may register for the lottery at both Talley Street Whiz Kids and at Legacy Park Whiz Kids (Cochran Building at 500 S Columbia Drive). Rising 3rd-5th graders at Fifth Avenue Upper Elementary may register for the lottery at both Fifth Avenue Whiz Kids and Ebster Whiz Kids (Ebster Recreation Center, 105 Electric Avenue).

Rising 6th-8th graders may register for the Project REAL lottery.
Q: How does the afterschool lottery work?

A: The lottery spin will fill all available spaces in the city's 10 afterschool programs on April 24, 2020. In the case of the Whiz Kids lottery registrations, CYS will assume the school program site is your first choice unless you contact us at cys@decaturga.com to indicate that Ebster Whiz Kids (Fifth Ave students) or Legacy Park Whiz Kids (Talley St students) is your first choice. Fees will be applied to your family’s account for children who are placed in afterschool programs via the lottery spin ($35 per child). Those who are not placed in the program will automatically be placed on the waitlist for the program. Lottery registration can be confirmed by logging into WebTrac, selecting My Account from the menu and then selecting My History. Families will be contacted to confirm enrollment no later than May 14, 2020.

Q: How do I register for the afterschool lottery?

A: Look for a special webpage to appear in the menu of www.decaturga.com/cys on or after February 3, 2020. The Afterschool Lottery 2020-21 page will provide you with detailed instructions on how to enroll your child/ren in the lottery.

Q: What is the cost of lottery registration?

A: Lottery registration costs $0. A registration fee of $35 will be applied to your account after the lottery spin in April if your child is placed in the program.

Q: I registered my child, now what?

A: The short answer is that you will simply need to wait until after April 24 for the results of the lottery spin. The longer answer is that we strongly encourage you to double check your registration status by logging into WebTrac and checking your registration history. Common lottery mistakes include:

- **Failure to complete the transaction by exiting the session before completing Checkout** – even though there is no cost for lottery registration if you do not complete the checkout process you will lose everything in your shopping cart and your child will not be entered in the lottery.

- **Registration for the current school year rather than the future school year** – be sure the registration number for the lottery section matches the number in the lottery instructions (available Feb. 3). Sometimes families add their child to the current school year waiting list rather than the lottery section for the upcoming school year.

- **Failure to add all desired programs** – For 3rd-5th graders -- note that each program is a separate lottery enrollment. Our system does not automatically add your child to Ebster Whiz Kids or to Legacy Park Whiz Kids by virtue of your school site registration. You must add the Ebster Whiz Kids or the Legacy Park Whiz Kids activity to your cart and complete the transaction.

Q: What are my chances?

A: The Animal Crackers (K-2nd) and Whiz Kids (3rd-5th) programs are in very high demand. Typically, some children will be placed in the program and others will be waitlisted. You can improve your chances by enrolling your 3rd-5th grader in lotteries for both the school program and the off-site program lotteries. This will increase your chances of getting into a Whiz Kids program.
Q: If we are waitlisted, will we get in before school starts?

A: There is always a chance that children on the waiting list may be invited to enroll before school begins; however, if your child is placed on the waiting list via the lottery spin, we strongly encourage you to investigate other options.

Q: I missed the lottery. What do I do?

A: Once lottery registration closes on April 17, the 2020-21 afterschool registration process will be closed temporarily in preparation for the lottery spin on April 24. Afterschool registration for 2020-21 will reopen on a first-come basis on May 1 at 10 am.

At that time, K-5th programs will likely be full with waiting lists from the lottery process so registration involves adding your child to the waiting list. If you are new to CYS and Active Living programs, you will need to complete the Afterschool Information and Release Form and Health History Form before we can add your child to the waiting list. This allows us to create a household profile for you in our registration software. Please visit the Forms & Documents page of www.decaturga.com/cys to find the necessary online forms.

If you are not new to CYS and Active Living programs, you may login to WebTrac with your household ID number and password and add your child to the waiting list as soon as registration opens on May 1 or anytime thereafter.