

Edward W. Bok Academy

A. Application Procedure

Any child residing in Polk County who is ready to enter middle school and is the appropriate age as mandated by the state guidelines may apply to Edward W. Bok Academy. Edward W. Bok Academy will work with the Polk County Office of Magnet, Choice and Charter Schools and Lake Wales Charter School Board of Governors to ensure a fair and impartial admission procedure.

All applications may be mailed, faxed or submitted in person during school hours. Applications submitted in person will be date and time stamped for proof of submittal date. Applications received via mail must have a postmark of the open enrollment window. A faxed application will be dated and time stamped as if it were delivered in person. All applications received during the window of open enrollment will be treated as though they arrived at the same time.

B. Admission Procedure

Once the open enrollment period ends, all applications will be sorted by grade level then priority will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Availability of grade level, programs, classes, or building. (In such cases all applications will have an equal chance through a random selection process as delineated in Bok's application.)
2. Applicants with a relative employed by LWCS, Inc. or actively serving as a governing board member.
3. Applicants who have a sibling that will be returning to Bok in the year in which the applicant is applying.
4. Target 1 students are those with high ability who were previously leaving our local schools in search of better education elsewhere --- to the detriment of the community. These students demonstrate ability and leadership, participate in wide ranging activities, can work independently, value education, are goal oriented, reside in homes where college attendance is a priority and where there is a family history of college attendance, and maintain a stable relationship with parents and peers.
5. Target 2 students are those with high potential but their backgrounds are such that, without intervention and inspiration, they will be unable to achieve their full student potential. These students demonstrate inconsistencies in motivation, self-concept issues, question the relevancy and the need of education, exhibit the potential to complete college work but reside in homes where there is no family history of college attendance, exhibit inconsistencies in attendance, some have counterproductive behavior patterns, a problematic social network, and often participate in free and reduced lunch programs.

Note: Students living within the Lake Wales attendance zones will receive preferential consideration and will be admitted after accomplishing the application procedure set forth above on site at the school anytime during the school year. This is mainly due to the continuation of a seamless education within the Lake Wales Charter School system AND finances, e.g.: transportation, etc.

Once all available seats have been filled the applications will be placed in an applicant pool/waiting list. When a seat becomes available a random lottery will be performed at that time in the order of priorities previously mentioned.

C. Selection and Admission Guidelines

- All applications must be received either by mail or in person during the open enrollment period.
- Applications will be accepted from any child residing in Polk County and at the appropriate age for enrollment.
- Per Florida Statute 1002.33(10)(e)(4) Bok will strive to achieve a student population that is “reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same district.”
- Admission does not guarantee transportation to the school. Bok Academy will only provide transportation for students in the designated bus zones.
- Bok will notify applicant of acceptance or placement on the waiting list within one (1) week of final decisions.
- Applicants who are not accepted during the current year will need to reapply each year.
- Siblings of current Bok Academy students will only receive priority when his/her sibling will be returning to Bok in the year in which the applicant is applying.
- The admission process will include a non-discriminatory screening of potential students. Bok Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, or religion.
- Open enrollment periods will be set by the school administration.
- Recommendations to place a student back into a zoned school other than Bok Academy will be made only after intervention strategies have been implemented and documented. A student will not be exited out of Bok Academy without parental consent based on his or her academic performance in compliance with section 1002.33(7)(a)7, Florida Statutes (2016). However, circumstances such as the welfare of the student population, learning environment, safety, etc. may be grounds for exiting a student without parental consent. Such action is at the sole discretion of the school’s administration. However, the school does move through a series of interventions. Interventions may include (but are not limited to) teacher phone calls, parent conference, Bok Bridges Program, Student Contract, and/or Code of Conduct stipulations.

- Should a grade level's applicant pool/waiting list diminish to fewer than ten students, acceptance of applications for that grade level will be reopened until administration deems enough students are in the application pool. The school will advertise through its website of such enrollment openings.

D. Diversity of the Community Determination:

Per Section 1002.33(7)(a)8, Florida Statutes (2016) Bok will strive to achieve a student population that is "reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same district." If an imbalance occurs, an action plan will be put in place to work toward meeting the requirement.