





LOWER TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY DISTRICT

905 Seashore Road
Cape May, New Jersey 08204
District grades: **Preschool - 6**
Approved Choice grades: **Kindergarten - 6**
Number of students enrolled in district: **1,402**

 **Parent Information: 609-884-9400 ext. 2604**

 **Program Contact: Kristin Sterling**

 **E-mail: choice@lowertwpschools.com**

 **Website: www.lowertwpschools.com**

CHOICE PROGRAM:

The Lower Township School District is Cape May County’s largest elementary school system offering comprehensive, quality educational programs and services. A positive and productive school climate built on high behavioral expectations and rigorous academic goals assisting all students to meet the NJ Core Curriculum Standards and the Common Core State Standards.

Students participate in comprehensive social skills lessons and pledge to respect each other’s right to be physically and emotionally safe each day. Our anti-bullying message is reinforced through a variety of activities and projects that promote and reward positive behaviors and discourage negative conduct in all school settings. An annual on-going theme in each school is *Kindness and Respect for Ourselves, Others and the School*.

Technology integration in the classroom increases every year as reading, math, social studies, and science materials are provided in both written text and e-text enabling students and parents to access student materials in school or at home. Wireless connectivity is available throughout the district. This year, all K thru 6th grade students have classrooms equipped with interactive technology instruction.

Choice Seats Available for 2024-25 School Year
The purpose of this profile is to inform parents of choice seat availability before the application deadline of Dec. 1, 2023. After the deadline, the information will be outdated.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF NEW STUDENTS THAT CAN BE ENROLLED:

15 Total

NOTE: LOWER TOWNSHIP HAS MORE SEATS AVAILABLE THAN WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT. A GROUP LOTTERY WILL BE HELD AND A WAITLIST DEVELOPED IF MORE THAN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF APPLICANTS ARE RECEIVED.

Grades	Seat availability
K	15 openings in the Choice Program for the 2024-25 SY.
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Kindergarten through 6th grades have daily special area instruction in art, music, physical education, library/media and technology/STEM taught by visual and performing arts specialists.

Recognizing the importance of developing the whole individual, additional programs are offered at specific grade levels. Vocal or Instrumental music programs include chorus, band and strings. Field trips and cultural activities incorporated at each grade level connect curriculum enrichment and foster the development of leadership skills.

The district offers before- and after-school day care programs, participates in the National School Lunch Program, and provides Free Breakfast for all students. It is immediately evident to anyone visiting our schools that the focus is on student achievement and a positive learning environment. All school facilities are safe, well maintained, and provide an accepting environment where individuals are treated with respect and dignity.

DISTRICT CHOICE POLICIES	YES/NO
A. THE DISTRICT ACCEPTS TIER 2 STUDENTS.	YES
B. THE DISTRICT GIVES ENROLLMENT PREFERENCE TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE SIBLINGS CURRENTLY ATTENDING THE CHOICE DISTRICT, PROVIDED THEY WILL ENROLL IN A CHOICE-APPROVED GRADE/PROGRAM AND THEY MEET ALL PROGRAM-SPECIFIC CRITERIA	YES PROVIDED SPACE IS AVAILABLE
C. THE DISTRICT GIVES ENROLLMENT PREFERENCE TO CHOICE STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE TERMINAL GRADE OF THE SENDING DISTRICT (I.E., STUDENTS WHO ATTEND A CHOICE DISTRICT WITH GRADES THAT TERMINATE BEFORE 12 TH GRADE AND WITH A NATURAL PROGRESSION TO THIS CHOICE DISTRICT).	NOT APPLICABLE
D. THE DISTRICT GIVES ENROLLMENT PREFERENCE TO RESIDENT STUDENTS WHO MOVE BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE. IF RESIDENT DISTRICT STUDENTS MOVE AND FILE CHOICE APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE, THE DISTRICT WILL GIVE THEM PREFERENCE (I.E., ACCEPT THEM AHEAD OF OTHER APPLICANTS) <u>PROVIDED</u> THAT THERE ARE CHOICE SEATS AVAILABLE IN THE CHOICE-APPROVED GRADES/PROGRAMS AND THE STUDENTS MEET ANY PROGRAM-SPECIFIC CRITERIA. <u>IF THE DISTRICT HAS ALREADY REACHED ITS APPROVED CHOICE ENROLLMENT MAXIMUM, THIS PREFERENCE WILL NOT APPLY.</u>	YES
E. THE DISTRICT GIVES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO RESIDENT STUDENTS WHO MOVE AFTER THE APPLICATION DEADLINE. STUDENTS IN THIS SITUATION MAY APPLY AS LATE APPLICANTS, <u>PROVIDED</u> THAT THERE ARE CHOICE SEATS AVAILABLE IN THE CHOICE-APPROVED GRADES/PROGRAMS AND THE STUDENTS MEET THIS PROGRAM-SPECIFIC CRITERIA. <u>IF THE DISTRICT HAS ALREADY REACHED ITS APPROVED CHOICE ENROLLMENT MAXIMUM, THIS SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WILL NOT APPLY.</u>	YES

TRANSPORTATION NOTE TO PARENTS

TRANSPORTATION OF CHOICE STUDENTS IS NOT GUARANTEED. IF A STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION (WITHIN 2 TO 20 MILES OF THE SCHOOL) AND THE COST WILL EXCEED \$1,000, THE PARENT/GUARDIAN WILL BE GIVEN \$1,000 AS AID IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION AND, IN SOME CASES, THE OPTION OF RECEIVING TRANSPORTATION AND PAYING THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OVER \$1,000. BY AUGUST 1, 2024, PARENTS SHOULD RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF THEIR TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FROM THE RESIDENT DISTRICT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, READ THE TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES FOR CHOICE STUDENTS.

Tier 1 students are students who are enrolled in a NJ public school in their resident school district during the time of application and for the entire year (2023-24) immediately preceding enrollment in a choice district. If a student moved during the school year and attended the resident public school of his/her old district of residence, he/she is also considered Tier 1. Choice districts must first fill their available seats with Tier 1 students. If the number of Tier 1 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a lottery to randomly select students. Charter school students are considered to be Tier 1. To qualify as Tier 1 for kindergarten, a student must be attending a state-funded preschool in his or her resident district or a student resides in a district that does not offer a state-funded preschool program or a student has a sibling currently attending the choice district. Most students applying for kindergarten are in Tier 1.

Tier 2 students include NJ residents who have **not** attended their resident public school for the entire year immediately prior to enrollment in the desired choice district and do **not** otherwise meet the requirements for Tier 1. This would include students who have been attending public school outside their districts of residence or private school. **Choice districts are not obligated to accept Tier 2 students.** If a choice district accepts Tier 2 applicants, they may do so only after all of the qualified Tier 1 applicants have been accepted. If the number of Tier 2 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a Tier 2 lottery to select students.