

The mission of the St. Louis Language Immersion School, an innovative, diverse, socially-conscious, public charter school, is to develop empathetic, high-achieving, bilingual, globally-minded students by providing a rigorous academic foundation that fosters critical thinking and problem solving.

## **SLLIS Enrollment Policy**

Updated June 2020

Enrollment of Resident Students and Students Otherwise Entitled to Attend Tuition Free SLLIS enrolls students in accordance with the provisions of Missouri Revised Statute 160.410, which requires enrollment of students residing in the City of St. Louis, as well as students who are eligible to attend schools in the City of St. Louis under an urban voluntary transfer program.

Enrollment in SLLIS for students eligible to attend schools in the City of St. Louis under an urban voluntary transfer program is subject to the rules and policies established by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation ("VICC"). Beginning with enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year, and in accordance with VICC policies, only eligible students who are siblings of:

- 1. Students currently enrolled in SLLIS or other charter schools; or
- 2. Students participating in VICC as a county-to-city transfer student will be authorized to enroll as new students at SLLIS. Eligible students may continue to enroll through the 2023-2024 school year. Students who are currently enrolled or who enroll as eligible siblings of current students at SLLIS or other charter schools will be authorized to continue to attend SLLIS through grade 8, or the last grade level offered by SLLIS at the time.

Children of current full-time staff members at SLLIS are eligible to enroll as students of SLLIS, even if the children are not otherwise eligible to attend SLLIS due to residency. These children will be eligible to attend SLLIS and considered to be "resident pupils" for as long as their parent is a full-time employee of SLLIS. In other words, the child will become ineligible to attend SLLIS immediately upon the parent's separation from employment with SLLIS.



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The open enrollment period shall begin on October 1 of each school year.

Applicants must provide all required documents in order for their applications to be considered complete. Based on availability, SLLIS will make seat offers on a first come-first served basis to applicants who meet the enrollment criteria and submit all required application documentation.

#### **Enrollment of Nonresident Tuition Students**

After completion of the enrollment period for resident students and those otherwise entitled to attend SLLIS tuition-free, SLLIS will accept applications for tuition students on a space-available basis. The amount of tuition will be determined annually by the Board of Directors on or before July 1. The Board of Directors will set the deadline for applications for tuition students.

Following the application deadline, the Superintendent will analyze projected class size and grade-level cohort size. The Superintendent will identify the number of spaces available for tuition students by school and grade level in accordance with DESE's class size guidance.

In the event that SLLIS has more applications for a grade level than it has available spaces, a lottery process will be used to select students for enrollment. Priority in the enrollment process will be given to siblings of currently enrolled students.

The parents/guardians of students selected for participation in the tuition program will be notified in writing. The parents/guardians of tuition students must sign a Tuition Agreement, submit a deposit and provide acceptable assurance of payment as determined by the Superintendent.



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In January of each school year, the parents/guardians of currently enrolled tuition students must return a signed Tuition Agreement and deposit for the following school year in order to guarantee placement the following year.

### Other Enrollment Provisions for Kindergarten – 8th Grade

In addition to these requirements, and in accordance with Missouri Revised Statute 160.410.3, SLLIS restricts the enrollment of new students to specific grade levels. SLLIS elementary schools will only accept new student applications for kindergarten or first grade. New applicants to SLLIS schools are welcome in grades 2 and up for students who have attended a school during the last calendar year in which 50% or more of instruction is conducted in the target language of the school of application. Students who are native speakers of the target language of the school of application, or who live in a household where the primary language spoken is the target language of the school of application, may also be eligible for enrollment with SLLIS, though these applicant students may be subject to assessment of their language skills prior to enrollment.

Students enrolling in SLLIS for kindergarten must have reached the age of five (5) by October 1 of the year in which enrollment is sought.

Former SLLIS students are eligible to apply for re-enrollment at any grade level at the SLLIS school in which they were enrolled during the previous school year.

### **Enrollment in PreKindergarten**

Students enrolling in SLLIS for prekindergarten must have reached the age of three (3) by August 1 of the year in which enrollment in prekindergarten 3 is sought, and the age of four (4) by August 1 of the year in which enrollment in prekindergarten 4 is sought.



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The Board will set a PreKindergarten Application Deadline and PreKindergarten Tuition Rate each year. Following the Application Deadline, if the number of students seeking enrollment exceeds the number of available seats available, admission shall be determined by lottery. Information regarding the date, time, and location of the lottery will be available at the time the Application Deadline is published, and updates, if any, will be posted on SLLIS' website. Priority for enrollment in the prekindergarten program will be as follows:

### **Tuition-Free Seats**

To be eligible for a tuition-free seat in the pre-kindergarten program, the student must be eligible for free and reduced lunch and must not be served in an early childhood special education program. Priority in enrollment will be given to siblings of students enrolled at SLLIS.

#### **Tuition Seats**

Once the tuition-free seats are filled, students will be selected to fill the seats for which tuition will be charged at the PreKindergarten Tuition Rate. Priority in enrollment will be given to siblings of students enrolled at SLLIS.