



Family Selection FAQ's

Q: How will I know when Horizons for Youth is accepting applications?

A: We encourage you to fill out the waitlist form. When we are ready to send out applications, we will work from waitlist and contact parents.

Q: Do my child's grades need to be excellent to apply to your program?

A: Horizons for Youth accepts students of all academic abilities. We understand that every child learns differently and has the ability to reach their own potential.

Q: What school does my child need to attend?

A: Our mission is to find the best quality school for your child(ren). We have a list of elementary partnership schools that we can share as we contact families on the waitlist.

Q: How are your Big Sibs (mentors) selected?

A: We take the safety of our students very seriously. All volunteers must complete an interview with our Volunteer Manager and pass a background check. For the first three months, all 1:1 outings between your child(ren) and mentor(s) are required to be supervised by one of our staff members or parent.

Q: How long can my child(ren) stay in the program?

A: Horizons for Youth is proud of our long-lasting relationships. So long as parents and students abide by the yearly contracts, students stay at Horizons for Youth an average of 17 years, from kindergarten through post-secondary. Students entering high school are required to interview for the Horizons for Youth High School Program at that point.

Q: What proof of income is required?

A: Applicants must show proof of financial need with income no greater than 80% of Chicago Area Median Income. (First two pages of 1040 tax return preferred, or signed letter from employer stating salary. If not currently working include a copy of Medicaid I.D. card, current food stamp voucher, proof of SSI (Supplement Security Income) or proof of Special Population Group (i.e. Social Security).

Q: Can my children who are older than K-3rd grade be accepted? How about younger than kindergarten?

A: Older siblings through sixth grade for the upcoming school year will also be accepted. Children entering 7th and 8th grade will be eligible for acceptance after a separate student interview. Only children who have previously been in our elementary program are eligible for the high school and post-secondary programs. Children younger than kindergarten are not eligible for the program, but if a family is in good standing, those children will enter the program when starting kindergarten