

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS  
HIGH SCHOOL

**STUDENT SELECTION POLICY**

New Mexico School for the Arts High School (the “High School”), a statewide public high school, provides access to a rigorous mastery arts and academic high school education for youth with a passion and aptitude in the arts, leading to post-secondary learning, careers in the arts, and lives that contribute to society.

New Mexico School for the Arts, Art Institute (the “Art Institute”), is a tax-exempt arts educational institution created to provide (1) intensive pre-professional arts and programming (2) housing and food services for eligible students and (3) outreach and arts enrichment instruction and programs in communities around the State of New Mexico. *(paragraph swapped)*

As stated in the Memorandum of Understanding between the High School and the Art Institute, the organizations agree to collaborate and cooperate with each other to provide the arts education program for the school. Therefore, the High School and Art Institute agree to collaborate on the student selection process. ~~even though this is the policy of the Art Institute.~~

Under special statute, 22-15F-1 NMSA et seq. the High School is permitted to choose its students following an audition and portfolio review and based on published assessment criteria. There is no lottery involved. The primary principles underlying the student selection policy are ~~exceptional~~ promise, aptitude and passion for the arts, **regardless of a student’s exposure to previous artistic training.**

To the greatest extent possible without jeopardizing admission standards, students **who are New Mexico residents** shall be admitted in equal numbers from each of the State’s three congressional districts.

The Head of School of the High School together with the President of the Art Institute make the determination of students to be admitted or declined. Their decision is final and not subject to review.

**Non-discrimination**

The selection process for the School ensures access and non-discrimination. The School subscribes to all federal and state standards with respect to both students and staff in this regard.

*NMSA admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, culture and religion or with any disability to all of the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to its students. NMSA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, culture, disability and religion in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid programs and arts and other programs.*

The Governing Council of the New Mexico School for the Arts amended this Student Selection Policy, effective November 18, 2020.

Student Selection Policy

Adopted: 9/28/10

Amended:10/1/13, 7/11/14, 8/21/19, 11/18/2020

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ATTEST;

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BIIL BEACHAM, Chair of the  
Governing Council

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PAULA TACKETT, Secretary of the  
Governing of the Council