

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS  
HIGH SCHOOL

**STUDENT SELECTION REGULATION**

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.

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.

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 high 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.

The High School is the only public school in the state permitted to choose students following an audition or 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.

To the greatest extent possible without jeopardizing admission standards, students 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.

**Admission Criteria**

Students wishing to attend the High School must apply for and be selected for admission through the audition process.

Prospective students must be New Mexico residents at the time of their application. Proof of residency will be requested upon acceptance.

Prospective students must be participating in an education program (public, private, or home school, in-person or remote) the year they apply. Prospective students must apply for the grade level that directly follows their grade level at the time of application. Admission to a particular grade level is not complete until High School has received an official transcript that shows evidence of the most current school enrollment. Students who are homeschooled will be admitted to the grade level that corresponds to their date of birth.

The selection process for the High School ensures access and nondiscrimination. The authorizing legislation (SB 34, 2008) states that: “admissions criteria shall be designed to admit students who show exceptional promise or aptitude in the arts and a strong desire to pursue a career in the arts.” Students who attend the High School will be selected following an audition or portfolio review based upon admissions assessment criteria. The Legislation makes it clear that the School’s admissions and recruitment activities must reach out to the widest feasible audience of New Mexico’s students, who

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reflect the demographic diversity of New Mexico, encouraging applications from those who meet the broad criteria, attempting to “eliminate barriers to prospective students in the application process.”

**Admission Process**

Admission information will be updated annually and is available on the High School’s website at <http://www.nmschoolforthearts.org> A hard copy can be requested by calling the High School.

The recruitment practices and admissions procedures are described in detail on the High School’s website. Published material will also be available in various formats.

The admissions panels for each of the High School’s arts departments are comprised of working artists, arts educators, and school faculty, primarily from New Mexico, who conduct the individual and group auditions, rate each applicant according to the published criteria and rubrics and submit their final recommendations to the Head of School and the President of the Art Institute.

It is possible that a real or perceived conflict of interest may arise involving a panel member and an applicant. If a panelist has a direct or indirect relationship to an applicant, whether by family or professional association, the panelist must disclose this fact to the other members of the panel. Knowing or having taught an applicant shall not necessarily be considered a conflict. If a conflict of interest does exist, the panelist will recuse him/herself from filing a report on that particular applicant.

Recommendations and audition records will remain confidential and are the property of the High School and the Institute. These materials will not be shared with applicants or their families.

Applicants are selected for admission in early spring for the upcoming School Year.

A rolling admissions procedure exists to allow the High School and Art Institute to audition and accept students throughout the year.

Students wishing to change departments need to reapply during the admission cycle. A Re-admission Request Form must also be completed. The form can be found online at our website: [www.nmschoolforthearts.org/admissions](http://www.nmschoolforthearts.org/admissions)

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**Non-discrimination**

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

Its frequently published policy statement is as follows: *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.*

**Transfer Credits**

See the Transfer Credit Policy regarding awarding of credits.