

Yes, no and maybe so. Those admissions letters!

Description



Image: Shutterstock

The countdown begins for notifications from L.A. and Pasadena private schools. Schools will notify families on March 10 and 17th. I remember applying for kindergarten, then DK, then 7th and 4th grades. Each time was stressful. Developmental Kindergarten was less stressful since my son was a sibling at Willows. As we waited, it was tempting to second-guess decisions weâ€™d made along the way. Then, Iâ€™d think STOP. Itâ€™s done. My friends and I were on the phone non-stop. The stakes seem so high, especially when you start to imagine the worst possible outcome. Yet, over the years, Iâ€™ve seen that most families will have a school to attend. It may not be your first choice, but once your kid is accepted, it becomes â€œyour kidâ€™s schoolâ€• and thatâ€™s a great feeling.

Our family has received acceptance letters, wait-list letters and weâ€™re had to withdraw an application when our parent interview went south. If your family gets even one acceptance letter, congratulations! Two or more is an abundance of riches. If not, hereâ€™s what Iâ€™ve learned as a parent who has been through the process multiple times and as someone who writes about admissions: your kid (like mine) may not get into the school you think is the best school, the perfect school, the school where your family needs to be, the school where â€œeveryone elseâ€• is going. If that happens, it can feel like a harsh blow. After all, you did everything right and yetâ€¦a wait-list or â€œnoâ€• letter. What!?! Frenemies are getting in and that makes it feel even worse. The most obnoxious family at your school posts their acceptance letter on Facebook. You feel like crying. You start crying. After a time, you stop crying and call a close friend, preferably someone who doesnâ€™t live in L.A. You vent and rage as she listens. It helps. You feel better. Itâ€™s also helpful to remember that sometimes things happen during the admissions process that are completely out of your control. Maybe you donâ€™t have the support of your head of school ([that was our situation leaving Willows for 7th grade](#), which has a middle school or maybe your kid barely made the age cutoff date and schools want older kids). Now what?

So what can you do? After gulping your favorite alcoholic beverage and taking some time to process it, come up with a plan to move forward. For secondary school, youâ€™ll have to tell your kid itâ€™s not personal, this rejection. If you have options, focus on whatâ€™s great about where he/she did get in.

Don't do anything you'll regret like stalking the admissions office or firing off a nasty email to your preschool director or head of school. Think those thoughts if you want, but remain professional. Trust me on this one! Instead, focus on options to move forward. Maybe that means figuring out a plan for a school where your kid has been wait-listed (see below for helpful posts). Perhaps you should think about submitting a late application at a school where you didn't apply. This may require the help of an educational consultant to get your calls returned, but it can be well worth it. Cold calling can work, but sometimes a consultant will know which schools have that one open spot that could belong to you.

My kids are now at Viewpoint in 7th and 10th and I couldn't have asked for a better school for them both!

Here are posts we've compiled from my experience and those of our contributors. I hope they help. And, you can buy a copy of [Beyond The Brochure: An Insider's Guide To Private Elementary Schools In Los Angeles](#) if you want a comprehensive overview of the L.A. admissions process including sample written applications.

Good luck to everyone!

Christina

Update: March 9, 2017

From [Los Angeles Independent Schools](#):

Friday, March 10, 2017

Email notifications can be sent at 5pm on Friday, March 10, 2017

Replies will be due on Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Grades K-8: Notification can be sent on Friday, March 17, 2017

Email notifications can be sent starting at 5pm on Friday, March 17, 2017

Replies will be due on Monday, March 27, 2017

[Waiting For Admissions Letters](#) by Jenny Heitz

[Waiting For Admissions Letters: Advice From L.A. Admissions Directors](#)

[Black Friday: The Day L.A. Private Schools Send Admissions Letters](#) on *The Daily Truffle*

[Grateful, Hopeful or Dismayed: When Admissions Letters Arrive](#)

[Various Types of Admissions Letters](#) by Kim Hamer

[Good News: How To Choose](#)

[O/X: What's Next When You Don't Get In?](#)

[Confronting Rejection: When Your All Isn't Enough](#)

[Tips For If Your Child Is Wait-Listed](#)

[Hiring An Educational Consultant To Go From Wait-Listed To Accepted](#)

[List of Educational Consultants](#)

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