ESSEX NORTH SHORE
AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL
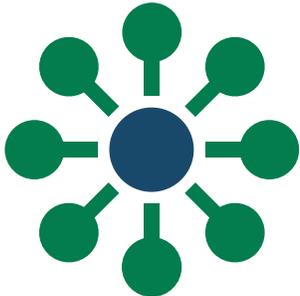
2014

Member Community Lottery-Based Admissions
How It Works & Why It Matters

Why a Lottery?
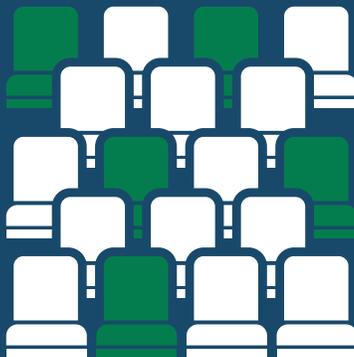### State-Mandated Process
(This Was Not Optional)

→ As of Spring 2025, Massachusetts requires regional vocational schools to use a lottery-based admissions system with a waitlist to ensure fair and equitable access for students across all member communities.

The Goal
Equity Across All 17 Member Communities

→ Fair Access–Not First-Come, First-Served

→ Every member community is guaranteed an equitable opportunity for Grade 9 enrollment

How Seats Are Allocated
Data-Driven, Not Arbitrary

→ Each community's Grade 8 population is calculated as a percentage of the total Grade 8 population across all 17 member communities. That percentage is then applied to the target enrollment of 425 students to determine each community's minimum enrollment target.

→ Communities with a small population are guaranteed a minimum of five seats.

→ This approach reflects the relative size of each sending community.

All applicants for Fall 2026 admission will be included in the lottery-based admissions process.

ENSATS 17 Member Community Lottery Process

Transparent.
Structured.
Consistent.

① **Submit a Complete Application**

② **Receive a randomized at-large lottery number**

③ **Seats are filled in multiple rounds to ensure that all communities reach their minimum targets**

④ **Any unused seats are redistributed using the at-large lottery order**

Why this works:

✓ **Eliminates ambiguity**

✓ **Reinforces "same number, every step"**

✓ **Quietly counters favoritism claims**

Member Community Minimum Targets (Grade 9)

Community	Min. Target
Beverly	51
Boxford	16
Danvers	39
Essex	5
Gloucester	35
Hamilton	13
Lynnfield	23
Manchester-By-The-Sea	10
Marblehead	39
Middleton	14
Nahant	5*
Peabody	71
Rockport	8
Salem	52
Swampscott	23
Topsfield	15
Wenham	8
Total Seats	**427**

A fair, transparent, and state-mandated admissions process.