

## Upper Township Choice District Profile 2025-2026

Upper Township School District  
525 Perry Road  
Petersburg, NJ 08270  
Cape May County

Choice Parent Information Center: 609-628-3500 ext. 2295

Name of Program Contact: Allison Pessolano

E-mail of Program Contact: pessolano@upperschools.org

District Grades: PK-8

Approved choice grades: K-8

Total # of students enrolled in district: 1365

Website: www.upperschools.org

### Choice Program

The Upper Township School District Choice Program offers a quality education to all choice students via participation in programs and activities that are currently in place throughout the District including:

1. Curricula that is aligned to the NJSLs.
2. Participation in 5 different academic, after school clubs and activities (ES/MS).
3. Participation in 5 different social, after school clubs and activities (ES/MS).
4. Participation in 15 different athletic, after school clubs and activities (MS).

### Choice Seats Available for 2025-2026 School Year

The purpose of this profile is to inform parents of choice seat availability **before** the application deadline of **November 29, 2024**. After the deadline, the information will be outdated.

The Department of Education limits the number of choice seats that each district can fill. The “maximum number of new choice students that can be enrolled” tells parents how many *new* choice students the district can enroll in the upcoming school year. If more than the maximum number of applications is received, a lottery will be held, and a waitlist will be developed. **Waitlists will be developed for all approved choice grades even if no seats are currently available. N/A indicates that the district is not accepting choice applications.**

**Maximum Number of New Choice Students that can be Enrolled: THREE (3)**

**School Name: Upper Township Primary School**

**Specialized Choice Program Name: N/A**

Grade	Seat availability per grade
K	3
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	N/A
10	N/A
11	N/A
12	N/A

**Upper Township School District**

District Choice Policies	Indicate Yes/No/NA
a. The district accepts Tier 2 students (see definition below).	YES
b. The district gives enrollment preference to choice applicants who have a sibling currently attending the choice district, provided there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/programs and the students meet any program-specific criteria.	YES
c. The district gives enrollment preference to choice applicants who have completed the terminal grade of the sending district (i.e., students who attend a choice district with grades that terminate before 12th grade and with a natural progression to this choice district), provided there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/programs and the students meet any program-specific criteria.	N/A
d. The district gives enrollment preference to resident students who move <i>before the application deadline</i> . If resident students move and file choice applications for the following year prior to the deadline, the district will give them enrollment preference (i.e., accept them ahead of other applicants, but after the enrollment preference students described in b. and c. above), provided there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/programs and the students meet any program-specific criteria. <i>If the district has already reached its approved choice enrollment maximum, this preference will not apply.</i>	YES
e. The district gives special consideration to resident students who move <i>after</i> the application deadline. Students in this situation may apply as late applicants and be added to the front of the district’s waitlist, provided the students will enroll in a choice-approved grade/program and they meet any program-specific criteria. No additional choice seats above the maximum will be approved by the NJDOE to accommodate these students.	YES

**Transportation Note to Parents**

***Transportation of choice students is not guaranteed.*** If a student is eligible for transportation (within 20 miles of the school) and the cost will exceed the maximum amount designated in the Annual Appropriations Act, the parent/guardian will be given aid in lieu of transportation and, in some cases, the option of receiving the transportation and paying the additional amount over the maximum. **By Aug. 1, 2025**, parents should receive notification of their transportation options from the resident district. For more information, read the [Transportation Procedures for choice students](#).

**Tiers Explained**

**Tier 1 students** are students who are enrolled in a NJ public school in their resident school district during the time of application and for the entire year (2024-2025) immediately preceding enrollment in a choice district. If a student moved during the school year and attended the resident public school of his/her old district of residence, he/she is also considered Tier 1. Choice districts must first fill their available seats with Tier 1 students. If the number of Tier 1 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a lottery to randomly select students. Charter school students are considered to be Tier 1. To qualify as Tier 1 for Kindergarten, a student must be attending a state-funded preschool in his or her resident district or a student resides in a district that does not offer a state-funded preschool program or a student has a sibling currently attending the choice district. **Most students applying for kindergarten are in Tier 1.**

**Tier 2 students** include NJ residents who have **not** attended their resident public school for the entire year immediately prior to enrollment in the desired choice district and do **not** otherwise meet the requirements for Tier 1. This would include students who have been attending public school outside their districts of residence or private school. **Choice districts are not obligated to accept Tier 2 students.** If a choice district accepts Tier 2 applicants, they may do so only after all of the qualified Tier 1 applicants have been accepted. If the number of Tier 2 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a Tier 2 lottery to select students.