

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND PLACEMENT

School Selection Process

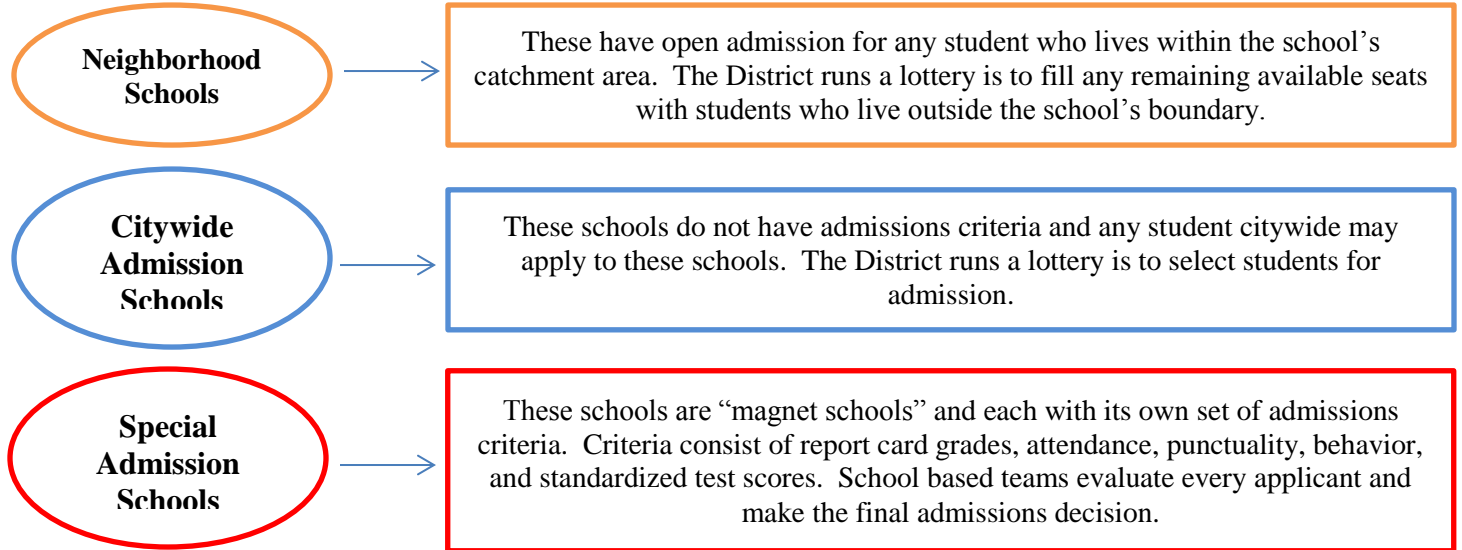
Elementary/Middle School Parent FAQ

Who should participate in the School Selection Process?

The School Selection Process is for all students and families who wish to apply to a school outside of their neighborhood boundaries.

What are my student’s options?

The School District of Philadelphia has many options for students. Generally, the District has three types of schools as described below.



My child is applying to a special admission middle school? What do I need to do?

- **FOR CURRENT SDP STUDENTS**
 1. Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.
 2. Your child’s academic records will be automatically sent to the schools through the District’s School Selection system.
 3. Some schools require an essay, interview or audition. Please visit the school’s websites to review their individual entrance requirements.
 4. Contact the schools if an interview or audition is necessary.
- **FOR CURRENT NON-SDP STUDENTS**
 1. Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.
 2. Special admission schools have academic, attendance and behavioral entrance requirements therefore they will need a copy of your child’s most recent records.
 3. You must take the following information directly to each school on your child’s application
 - The School District’s Student Data Transcript and
 - A copy of your child’s most recent standardized test
 - The chart below will help you know what to provide.

Applying to 5 th grade	Provide 2 nd and 3 rd grade academic and standardized test score information
Applying to 6 th grade	Provide 3 rd and 4 th grade academic and standardized test score information
Applying to 7 th grade	Provide 4 th and 5 th grade academic and standardized test score information
Applying to 8 th grade	Provide 5 th and 6 th grade academic and standardized test score information

- Some schools require an essay, interview or audition. Please visit the school's websites to review their individual entrance requirements.

My child is applying to a neighborhood or citywide school. What do I need to do?

Review the list of eligible neighborhood and citywide schools on schoolselection@philasd.org . Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.

How are students selected for citywide or neighborhood schools?

After staff obtains confirmation of the number of seats available from each school's principal, the student's names are entered into a computerized lottery that selects based on the number of seats available.

I heard that if I take my application to the neighborhood school I'm interested in, my child will have a better chance at being selected. Is this true?

No. Students are selected by the computerized lottery, not by the principal or staff of the school. There is no need to take your confirmation page to a school as proof that you submitted an application online.

Does submitting my application on the first day increase my child's chances of being selected for a school?

No.

How does the School District determine the list of eligible neighborhood elementary and middle schools for this process?

The Office of Student Enrollment and Placement collaborates with the Office of Grade and Space and school principals to evaluate which schools have available seats, (by grade level), for students who live outside of a school's catchment area. Generally, staff reviews a school's building utilization and enrollment trends along with other factors that may be unique to the school or neighborhood such as building developments. If a school does not appear on the list, it is because the school does not have any available seats for students residing outside the school's catchment next year.

Will my child receive transportation if he/she is selected to attend one of the school's on our application?

• Students K-6	Transportation is not provided
• Students 7-12	Students who live 1.5 miles away from school will be eligible for a Student Transpass.
•	Students who are selected to attend one of the following schools and who live 1.5 miles away from school, will be eligible for a Student Transpass regardless of grade level: GAMP, MYA, AMY Northwest, AMY at James Martin, Conwell, Hill Freeman and Masterman

What is the timeline for the School Selection Process?

(Dates Subject to Change)

Month	Activity
Mid-October - November	Application submission
January-February	School based applicant evaluation (criteria based schools)
Late February	Lotteries are conducted
March	Initial Status Notifications are sent
Late March	Students are pulled from waitlist
April	Final Status Notifications are sent

How will the District communicate updates to me?

- FOR CURRENT SDP STUDENTS - All notifications will be sent to the student and family through the Student and Parent Portals. This includes school selection determinations.
- FOR CURRENT NON-SDP STUDENTS - All notifications will be sent to the email address provided when the application was submitted. This includes school selection determinations.

If my child is not selected to the schools I choose, is there still a chance my child will be enrolled?

Yes. The lottery not only selects student to be enrolled, but it creates a wait list of students who were not selected. These lottery results are shared with the principals of the schools. If a seat becomes available, the school must select students from the wait list.