Who should participate in the School Selection Process?
The School Selection Process is for 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 of options for students. Generally, the District has three types of schools as described below.

- **Neighborhood Schools**
  These have open admission for any student who lives within the school’s catchment area. The District runs a lottery to fill any remaining available seats with students who live outside the school’s boundary.

- **Citywide Admission Schools**
  These schools have admissions criteria and any student citywide may apply to these schools. School based teams evaluate every applicant and determine if the applicant should be included in an electronic lottery which selects the students for admission.

- **Special Admission Schools**
  These schools are “magnet schools” and each with its own set of admissions criteria. Criteria consist of report card grades, attendance, punctuality, behavior, and standardized test scores. School based teams evaluate every applicant and make the final admissions decision.

My child is applying to a special or citywide admission high school? What do I need to do?

- **FOR CURRENT SDP STUDENTS**
  - Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.
  - Your child’s academic records are automatically sent to the schools through the District’s School Selection system.
  - Some schools require an essay, interview or audition. Please work with your school’s counselor and visit the schools’ websites to review schools’ entrance requirements.
  - Contact the schools if an interview or audition is necessary.

- **FOR CURRENT NON-SDP STUDENTS**
  - Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.
  - Special and citywide admission high schools have academic, attendance and behavioral entrance requirements; therefore they will need a copy of your child’s most recent records.
  - 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Applying</th>
<th>Required Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th grade</td>
<td>Provide 7th grade academic and standardized test score information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th grade</td>
<td>Provide 8th grade academic and standardized test score information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th grade</td>
<td>Provide 9th grade academic and standardized test score information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th grade</td>
<td>Provide 10th grade academic and standardized test score information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How can I find out the admissions requirements of a school?
The District’s online High School Directory contains the admissions requirements for each high school. Your
counselor or teachers can also help explain the admission requirements for each school.

My child is applying to a neighborhood high school. What do I need to do?
Review all of the many academic, specialty and career and technical education programs offered in School District of
Philadelphia high schools. Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.

What is the timeline for the School Selection Process?
(Dates Subject to Change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Application submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January-February</td>
<td>School based applicant evaluation (criteria based schools)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late February</td>
<td>Lotteries are conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Initial Status Notifications are sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late March</td>
<td>Students are pulled from waitlist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Final Status Notifications are sent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Should I visit the school?
Yes. The School District is currently compiling a list of dates when high schools will be hosting open house
events. The schedule will be made available at schoolselect.philasd.org when it is completed. Please contact
schools of interest to request the date and time of their open house or other opportunities to visit the school.

If I don’t meet the exact criteria of a selective school, should I apply anyway?
Yes, we encourage all interested student to apply, but only if your record comes close to meeting the
requirements. In close cases, principals at selective schools may seek recommendations from adults at the
applicant’s school who know the student. Interviews can also make a big difference.

If I am not accepted for admission to any of my choices, what do I do?
Keep in mind that you will increase your chances of admission if you apply to schools that align with your
academic record and career interests. Please note that students are guaranteed admission at their neighborhood
high school.

Can students with IEPs or who are English language learners apply to selective high schools?
All students are encouraged to apply to any high school that interests them if they meet the basic qualifications.
The District facilitates an advocacy process for 8th grade students applying to selective high schools called the
LeGare Advocacy Process. Students with individualized education programs (IEPs) or who are ELLs can learn
more from their counselor or principal, and from the Office of Specialized Services at 215-400-4170.

Where else can I get help with high school selection?
Students and families are strongly encouraged to work closely with their school counselor. Guidance regarding
the School Selection process and procedures are also available at area Parent and Family Resource Centers.
Parents can also utilize the District’s website, where they can obtain school profiles, access the online
application, and utilize other resources related to this process.