

Draft: Butler-Wall
Proposal #2
Distance Tiebreaker
to TOPS



School Board Action

DATE: October 6, 2004

TO: School Board Directors

FROM: Brita Butler-Wall, Director

RE: 2005-06 Elementary and Secondary Student Assignment Plans
Proposal #2 – Distance Tiebreaker at TOPS

For Introduction: October 6, 2004
For Action: November 3, 2004

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend approval of the following motion:

I move the 2005-2006 Elementary Student Assignment Plan be amended to apply the distance tiebreaker for all kindergarten applicants to 20% of the open seats at kindergarten at TOPS K-8 elementary. Open seats is defined as those remaining after siblings are assigned.

DISCUSSION

- **Recommendation:**
This recommendation to apply the distance tiebreaker to a portion of the open kindergarten seats at TOPS is to mitigate the distance disadvantage for Roanoke /Eastlake neighborhood.
- **Background Information:**
This amendment would mitigate the distance disadvantage for children residing in the Roanoke/Eastlake/N. Capitol Hill neighborhood. These families currently have no neighborhood school. The nearest school, TOPS, is an oversubscribed K-8 school that draws from 5-clusters based on sibling preference and lottery. The three next-nearest schools (Montlake, McGilvra, and Stevens) are also filled to capacity with children from their respective neighborhoods each year, due to the distance tie-breaker.

This one-year, ad hoc solution is acceptable to the TOPS school community (see TOPS site council survey results). It would involve approximately 5 children from the neighborhood and would not negatively impact the learning environment of the school.

The current lack of a neighborhood school results in families with small children moving out of this neighborhood which is a cause for concern for the local community.

- **Previous Actions or Discussion by a Board Committee or the Board:**
In October 2002, a similar amendment to apply distance to a portion of the TOPS kindergarten assignments was proposed and failed.
- **Impact on the District:**
School Board action is necessary by November 2004 to provide timely information for parents and students when making school choices for the 2005-06 school year.

This increases predictability and access to TOPS for a portion of the Montlake reference area kindergarten applicants. Since available seats are limited, this re-allocates seats assigned through a lottery system and provides them to students living nearby.

This will require a new set of seats for processing assignments to TOPS.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENTS

Site Council Survey

Maps

Submitted by: _____
Brita Butler-Wall