

School Board Action Report

“Every student achieving, everyone accountable”



DATE: March 30, 2009

FROM: Dr. Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D., Superintendent

LEAD STAFF: Dr. Tracy Libros, Enrollment & Planning Manager,
trlibros@seattleschools.org; (206) 252-0762
Holly Ferguson, Director of Policy & Government Relations
haferguson@seattleschools.org; (206) 252-0124

STRATEGIC THEME/

FOCUS AREA: Building an Infrastructure that Works Well

TITLE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This is a revision of Policy D 03.00. The revised D 03.00 outlines generally how students are to be assigned to schools.

For Introduction:	April 8, 2009
For Action:	April 22, 2009

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

The rules for the new assignment plan are currently being developed. It is expected that initial implementation will begin for some grades for the 2010-2011 academic year. More details on timelines will be developed as the plan is completed.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board approve revised Policy D 03.00.

ISSUE

In June 2007, the School Board approved a framework for a new student assignment plan. The framework directed the Superintendent to develop a new student assignment plan that included the following elements:

- defined attendance areas for elementary, middle and high schools
- defined attendance areas for alternative schools, including international schools
- direct feeder patterns from elementary to middle schools
- seats set aside at the high school level for "open choice"

It is assumed that a majority of students will attend the school designated by their home address. However, the new student assignment plan shall include a specific amount of "open choice" seats at every comprehensive (non-alternative) high school. Open choice seats are intended for

students who live outside the designated attendance area who wish to attend that high school. Open choice seats will not be set aside at the elementary or middle school level, except at the elementary international schools. However, students are welcome to apply for seats outside their designated area, during an open application process.

If more students apply for open choice seats at the high school level, or for non-attendance area school seats at the elementary or middle school levels, at a particular school than there are seats, the available seats shall be allotted according to a set of tiebreakers.

Students shall not be mandatorily assigned to an alternative school; assignment to alternative schools shall be based on an open application process. Students will be assigned on a space-available basis using criteria (tiebreakers) as approved by the School Board.

For students for whom the district determines that their needs cannot be met at their designated school, the student shall be assigned to a school that has the appropriate program.

This revision of D 03.00 will provide additional direction to staff who are developing the rules for the new student assignment plan. Additional assignment policies must be revised; that work will occur concurrent with the development of the new plan. It is important to note that this policy is not the actual new student assignment plan—this is a guiding document outlining direction. The rules for the plan are under development and are scheduled to be voted on in June.

Deleted: , using the same criteria as used for open choice seats at the high school level

Formatted: Highlight

Deleted: !

BEST PRACTICES

N/A

RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES

N/A

POLICY IMPLICATION

This policy revises D 03.00. The remaining assignment plan policies and procedures will need to be reviewed.

FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

It is expected that full implementation of the plan will result in cost savings. Those savings will be unknown until the plan is complete.

Expenditure: One-time Annual

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

A number of community meetings have been held to discuss options for the new assignment plan. Meetings included:

- Community meetings on October 23, October 27, and November 1, 2008
- Consultative meetings on November 6, 7, 14, 15, 18 and 20, and on December 2
- Quarterly community meetings about *Excellence for All* on January 12, 13, and 24 and March 21, 24 and 26

A complete list of meetings, and the handouts from those meetings, can be found on-line at:
<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign/index.html>.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that revised policy D 03.00 be approved.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Revised Policy D 03.00](#)