



School Board Briefing/Proposed Action Report

Informational (no action required by Board) **Action Report** (Board will be required to take action)

DATE: ~~September~~ ~~October 9-28~~ November 13, 2015
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I. TITLE

Approval of the Student Assignment **For Introduction:** October 7, 2015
Transition Plan for 2016-17 **For Action:** ~~October 21~~ November 18, 2015

II. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

The Student Assignment Plan is under the authority of the Seattle Public Schools Board of Directors. Changes to the Student Assignment Plan must be approved by the School Board.

III. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action will be \$0. The Student Assignment Plan will be available to school staff, parents, and students on the Enrollment Planning and Admissions webpages of the District website. Also, schools may print out copies for students and parents as needed.

The revenue source for this motion is not applicable.

Expenditure: N/A One-time Annual Other Source

IV. POLICY IMPLICATION

This item is coming to the Board per Policy No. 3130, Student Assignment and Enrollment. This policy outlines student assignment to attendance area, option and service schools.

V. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the Board approve the Student Assignment Plan, dated ~~October 21~~ November 18, 2015, as attached to the Board ~~action~~ Action report Report.

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Operations Committee meeting on September 17, 2015. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved the item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval.

VII. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On November 4, 2015, the Board motioned to move action on the proposed approval of the Student Assignment Plan to ~~action at~~ the November 18, 2015 meeting. The Board ~~and~~ requested a redlined version of the current Student Assignment Plan to show the proposed changes : ~~Additionally the Board requested~~ and additional information on what will happen after waitlists are dissolved on May 31 (and when ~~and~~ seats ~~later~~ become available after waitlists are dissolved). ~~Board Action Report has been updated to include the requested also included in this updated action report.~~

The Student Assignment Plan was approved by the Board in 2009 to provide greater predictability for families while still offering opportunities for school choice. Annual Transition Plans guided a phased approach to implementation. The Superintendent's Procedures for Student Assignment 3130SP sets forth the implementation of the policies established by the Board in the Student Assignment Plan and the most recent Transition Plan (2013-14). These documents are the guides for the SPS Service Center and other district staff and must be viewed as integrated companions to fully understand the Student Assignment Plan.

The purpose of this action is to ~~streamline and clarify~~ update the 2013-14 Transition Plan for the 20136-147 school year, including the ~~simplify tiebreakers, and~~ elimination of the distance tiebreaker, and ~~outstanding questions that have been brought up regarding student assignment over the past several years. There are a number of different student assignment documents (including previous annual transition plans) available on the Seattle Public Schools website. It is not always clear which document supersedes the others. We want to clear up conflicting and confusing statements and resolve and clarify all points of the Student Assignment Plan. (frequently) ~~proposed move~~ s the date when the waitlists will be dissolved to May 31 (from the current date of September 30). This new timeline will provide schools and families information on their next year assignments ~~for the upcoming school year earlier, to~~ allowing more time for ~~planning and preparation as well as~~ and minimizing e student shifts ~~once school has started~~ after school has begun. Seats that become available after May 31 will be available for assignments for ~~new~~ students that are new to the district.~~ The intended effect of this motion is to reduce the number of inquiries regarding student assignment policies and potential parent and family complaints about improperly applied policies.

This motion also ~~completes~~ aligns the tiebreakers with the final implementation of the Student Assignment Plan by, including the ~~eliminating~~ ion of the distance tiebreaker. The Student Assignment Plan, as introduced in 2009, did not include the distance tiebreaker. However, it was included in a subsequent Annual Transition Plan. We are now in year six of Student Assignment Plan implementation and assignment data indicates that families have adjusted to the neighborhood school system of initial assignment. Choice data also indicates a preference for "local" schools.

VIII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Whether to approve the Student Assignment Plan, as attached.

IX. ALTERNATIVES

Keeping the Student Assignment Plan as currently written is not recommended because the recommended changes are appropriate and necessary. These changes represent updated student assignment information and efforts to reduce confusion regarding which documents and policies are currently in effect.

X. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS

Enrollment Planning presented a summary of changes at several Board meetings and A presentation summary is attached to this document. Separately, we will hosted five four seven public meetings in ~~late-September and early-October~~ and November ~~in each of the five SPS regions~~ to discuss these ~~minor~~ revisions.

XI. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of this motion, the Student Assignment Plan will go into effect for the 2016-17 school year and ~~all school years subsequent~~, until further amended by Board action. The Plan will be uploaded onto the District's Enrollment Planning and Admissions webpages for access by the public. Open Enrollment for School Choice for the 2016-17 school year is expected to occur between the last week of February and the first week of March 2016.

XII. ATTACHMENTS

- Student Assignment Transition Plan for 2016-17 (clean version for approval)
- ~~Redlined 2013-14 Student Annual Assignment Transition Plan, which showing s the proposed changes for the 2016-17 school year from the current 2013-2014 Transition Plan and the proposed updated Student Assignment Plan.~~
- Summary Presentation



STUDENT ASSIGNMENT TRANSITION PLAN FOR 2016-17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I	Overview and Highlights.....	Page 1
SECTION II	Standard Assignments	Page 2
	A. Summary	
	B. Students Entering Kindergarten	
	C. Students Entering 6 th Grade	
	D. Students Entering 9 th Grade	
	E. Students Who Move	
SECTION III	Access to Programs and Services.....	Page 6
	A. Special Education	
	B. English Language Learners (ELL)	
	C. Advanced Learning (HCC/IBX, ALO, Spectrum)	
	D. Montessori	
	E. International Schools	
	F. Programs and Services	
SECTION IV	School Choice.....	Page 9
	A. Open Enrollment	
	B. Tiebreakers	
	C. Waitlists	
	D. Siblings and School Choice	
<u>APPENDICES</u>	Page 12
Appendix A	Attendance Areas and Feeder Patterns	
Appendix B	Geographic Zones for Option School Tiebreakers	

Note: For information about transportation eligibility, see the approved Transportation Service Standards.

SECTION I: OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

A New Student Assignment Plan (NSAP) was approved in 2009 to provide greater predictability for families while still offering opportunities for school choice. Annual Transition Plans for 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 guided a phased approach to implementation.¹

The provisions of this Plan will prevail in the case of any conflicts with the previously-approved NSAP, attendance area boundaries, and/or GeoZones. Unless otherwise specified, boundaries, feeder patterns, option school GeoZones, and assignment rules will remain in effect until there are changes approved by the School Board. It is anticipated that changes will be needed to address capacity management issues as district enrollment continues to grow.

School assignments are based on approved attendance area boundaries. Every student has an attendance area elementary, middle, and high school based on residence. Elementary attendance areas are combined to create middle school attendance areas, resulting in feeder patterns from elementary to middle school.

In most instances, the middle school attendance area is also a service area for elementary and middle school students. Various services are provided for students who live within a service area. Most specialized services for middle and high school students are provided at their attendance area school. If required special education services are not available at a student's attendance area school, the school will generally be linked with a nearby school or service area with the required services.³

School choice allows students to apply for other schools during an annual Open Enrollment period through the end of May. A student may apply for any combination of attendance area and/or option schools.

This Transition Plan continues most of the assignment rules in effect during 2013-14, while at the same time completing the phase-out of transitional constraints on full implementation of the NSAP. Some constraints on assignment of siblings to the same school are also eliminated. Some highlights and changes are:

- Elimination of the distance tiebreaker
- Changes to the date when waitlists are dissolved
- Updates to program names and locations based on previously approved changes

¹ The transition plan and assignment rules apply to resident students only. Different rules apply for non-resident students.

³ There will continue to be a limited number of programs or services that are unique enough, and that serve such a limited population, that they cannot be offered in every service area or high school attendance area.

SECTION II: STANDARD ASSIGNMENTS

A. Summary

Assignments to attendance area schools are based on residence. Students new to the district start with an assignment to their attendance area school.

After May 31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available. New students in grades 6-8 may also choose a K-8 attendance area school if they live within that school's attendance area.

K-12 students may transfer to their attendance area school after Open Enrollment through May 31, as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.

K-8 students who live outside of their assigned school's walk zone and are not eligible for transportation may transfer to their attendance area school at any time, as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.

Continuing Assignments

Students who will automatically get a continuing assignment to the same school, as long as the school offers the grade and services the student needs:

- Students who have not moved and whose current school includes their next year grade and current program.
- Students at option schools will be continued at that school through the highest grade served by the school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.
- Students with a choice assignment to an attendance area school that is not the student's attendance area school.
- Students at a K-8 school rising to 6th grade.

New Assignments

Students who will get a new assignment:

- Students whose current school does not include their next year grade or required special education services. Students will be automatically assigned to their attendance area school for the upcoming school year, except as noted for certain pathway assignments and to meet required special education services; no application is required.
- Students at their previous attendance area school who have moved out of the school's attendance area (except students grandfathered at the school); no application is required.

Grandfathered Assignments

All students enrolled with a grandfathered assignment who stay at the school are continued (grandfathered) at that school through the highest grade served by the school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs; no application is required.

B. Students Entering Kindergarten

Students entering kindergarten will have an initial assignment to their attendance area school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.

- This includes students currently receiving special education developmental preschool services who will be five years old by August 31, unless their individualized education program (IEP) calls for services not available at their attendance area school.
- Students attending PreK at South Shore will be assigned to continue at South Shore for kindergarten.
- Students who meet eligibility requirements for early entrance to kindergarten are assigned to their attendance area school upon request, and may apply for other schools on a space available basis through May 31.

For information on assignment of siblings to the same school, see Section IV-D (Siblings and School Choice).

C. Students Entering 6th Grade

New Students

A “new student” is a student who has not attended a SPS attendance area or option school at any time during the current or previous school year. New students to the district will be assigned to their attendance area middle school. Upon request, middle school students who live in the attendance area of a K-8 attendance area school will instead be assigned to that K-8 school. Students may also apply to any school with space available during Open Enrollment through May 31. After May 31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area middle school, to a K-8 attendance area school if they live within that school’s attendance area, or to an option school with space available.

Students Currently Attending an Elementary School

Students entering 6th grade from a K-5 school will generally receive an initial assignment to their attendance area middle school, except:

- **Highly Capable Cohort (HCC):** Students assigned to HCC receive an initial assignment to their HCC pathway middle school based on where they live. If they apply for their attendance area middle school during Open Enrollment through May 31, they will be assigned to that school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).

Students eligible for (but not assigned to) HCC for the following school year are not automatically assigned to their HCC pathway school; they must apply during Open Enrollment through May 31. If they apply for HCC during Open Enrollment through May 31, they will be assigned to their HCC pathway school. Assignment to the non-pathway school depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.

If a student becomes eligible as HC for the current or following school year after May 31 and applies for HCC, they will be assigned to their HCC pathway school.⁵ Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested through May 31 and depends on space available.

- **Spectrum:** 5th grade students eligible as Advanced Learners will receive an initial assignment to Spectrum at their attendance area middle school for 6th grade; no application is required.

Any student identified as an Advanced Learner may apply for Spectrum at another attendance area school or K-8 school with Spectrum during Open Enrollment through May 31; assignment is based on space available and tiebreakers.

- **International Schools:** Non-attendance area students who are eligible for an International Schools pathway, and who apply during Open Enrollment through May 31, will be assigned there (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).⁶ Elementary to middle school pathways go into effect when an elementary program extends through 5th grade.

Students may also apply for any school during Open Enrollment through May 31, including K-8, attendance area, and option schools. Assignment depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.

Students Currently Attending a K-8 School

Students entering 6th grade and attending K-8 schools will be assigned to continue at their current K-8 school for 6th grade, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.⁷

- If they apply for their attendance area middle school during Open Enrollment through May 31 they will be assigned to their attendance area school as long as the school offers the services the student needs (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).

Students may apply for any school with space available during or after Open Enrollment through May 31.

- **HCC:** Students eligible as HC for the following school year are not automatically assigned to their HCC pathway school. If they apply for HCC during Open Enrollment through May 31, they will be assigned to their HCC pathway school. Assignment to the non-pathway school depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.

If a student becomes eligible for HCC for the current or following school year after May 31 and applies for HCC, they will be assigned to their HCC pathway school.⁸ Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested through May 31 and depends on space available.

⁵ This occurs when a student is new to the district after the testing deadline has passed, enrolls from another public school district, and can document comparable eligibility and participation in that district's similar program for gifted students. Eligibility is determined by the Advanced Learning department.

⁶ One of the choices listed must be for the pathway school without designation of Spectrum (or HCC if applicable).

⁷ Students enrolled in Spectrum at their K-8 school will be continued in Spectrum without having to reapply.

⁸ This occurs when a student is new to the district after the testing deadline has passed, enrolls from another public school district, and can document comparable eligibility and participation in that district's similar program for gifted students.

- **Spectrum:** Advanced Learners who apply for their attendance area school by May 31 will be assigned to Spectrum at that school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).

Students may also apply for any school during Open Enrollment through May 31, including K-8, attendance area, and option schools. Assignment depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.

D. Students Entering 9th Grade

Current students and students new to the district will generally be assigned to their attendance area high school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs. Students may also apply to any school during Open Enrollment through May 31. After May 31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available.

- **HCC:** Students assigned to HCC in 8th grade will receive an initial assignment to Garfield. They may also apply for the HCC/IBX program at Ingraham; assignment to Ingraham depends on space available and tiebreakers. If not assigned to HCC/IBX at Ingraham they retain their seat at Garfield (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice). High school students who do not currently have an HCC assignment but have met district standards for Highly Capable students are eligible to apply for 9th grade in the HCC/IBX program at Ingraham. Assignment depends on space available and tiebreakers.

If they apply for their attendance area high school during Open Enrollment through May 31, they will be assigned to their attendance area school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).

- **International Schools:** Non-attendance area students who are eligible for an International Schools pathway and who apply for the pathway school during Open Enrollment through May 31 will be assigned to the relevant pathway school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice). Middle to high school pathways go into effect when a middle school program extends through 8th grade.

Students may also apply to any school with space available during or after Open Enrollment through May 31. After May 31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available.

E. Students Who Move

When students move, they may have the option of or be required to get a new school assignment, depending on when and where they move. In general, students **must** change to their new attendance area schools if:

- They are assigned to their attendance area school (even if they have a choice assignment), are not grandfathered, and they move to a new attendance area. If they move before the school year starts, they must change schools for the new school year. If they move during the school year, they may finish the year at their current school, but they must change schools the next year.

Students **may** change to their new attendance area school if they move to a new attendance area. In all cases, reassignments are subject to any special education services a student may require. Detailed move rules are available in the Superintendent's Procedures for Student Assignment.⁹

⁹ Available on the district website: <http://www.seattleschools.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=14926>

SECTION III: ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SPS offers a variety of programs and services to meet a range of student needs, including English Language Learners (ELL), students who need special education services, students who are homeless, and advanced learners. Many students are assigned to their attendance area school regardless of most service needs. For required special education services not available at every attendance area school, a linked school is generally designated. This provides predictable assignments for students who need these services.

Schools and services are also available for students who have various behavioral, attendance, or academic challenges as well as for students who self-select into certain unique programs. Students are assigned to these schools or programs individually based on specific needs and circumstances, not through the standard assignment process.

A. Special Education

Students who receive Special Education Resource/ICS¹⁰ services are assigned to their attendance area school, and may also apply for assignment to another school through school choice.

Students who are eligible for certain intensive special education services are assigned to their attendance area or linked school (for middle and high school students), and may also apply for assignment to another school that offers those services through school choice. The linked schools for these service models are posted online prior to Open Enrollment, along with linked schools for other programs and services, and provide greater assignment predictability.¹¹

- Standard assignment rules and tiebreakers apply.

Students who receive all other intensive special education services are assigned individually based on student needs, and may also apply for assignment to another school offering the same services through school choice.

- These assignments are in alignment with NSAP boundaries and feeder patterns, to the extent possible, depending on capacity, proximity, and individual service needs. Assignments are made individually to ensure that each student's IEP requirements can be met and that the appropriate services are available at the assigned school. Transportation for students with disabilities is based on individual needs.

B. English Language Learners (ELL)

Most students who need ELL services are assigned to their attendance area school. Students who need ELL services may also apply for other schools through school choice. Bilingual Orientation Center services are available for newcomers.

C. Advanced Learning (HCC/IBX, ALO, Spectrum)¹²

Opportunities for advanced learners are increasingly and intentionally becoming more widely available throughout the city.

¹⁰ Integrated Comprehensive Services

¹¹ If warranted by student needs, intensive special education services may be added at other locations and times.

¹² See additional information in Sections II-C and II-D.

Highly Capable Cohort (HCC)

HCC assignment pathways are based on where students live, not where they attend school. (See Appendix A.)

Cascadia > Hamilton or Jane Adams > Garfield

Thurgood Marshall > Washington > Garfield

- Students entering HCC in grades 1-8 who apply during Open Enrollment through May 31 will be assigned consistent with the approved HCC pathways, based on where they live.
- Students entering grades 1-8 who become eligible as HC after Open Enrollment will be assigned consistent with the HCC pathways, based on where they live.
- 6th graders coming from Cascadia or Thurgood Marshall will be assigned to HCC at Hamilton, Jane Addams or Washington consistent with the HCC pathways, based on where they live.
- Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested during Open Enrollment through May 31 and depends on space available.
- All 9th graders coming from HCC at Hamilton, Jane Addams, or Washington will be assigned to Garfield and may apply for the HCC/IBX program at Ingraham.

If students assigned to HCC apply for their attendance area school during Open Enrollment through May 31, they will be assigned to their attendance area school.

HCC/IBX Program at Ingraham High School

A second advanced learning option for HCC-eligible high school students is offered at Ingraham. Highly Capable/IBX students will generally take core classes together and then enroll in International Baccalaureate classes beginning in 10th grade – a year earlier than usual. An accelerated curriculum leads to an early IB diploma, allowing seniors to complete internships, college classes, and further electives.

Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO)

Students apply as general education students to schools offering the program (grades 1-5). ALO serves students identified as Highly Capable and/or as Advanced Learners. Highly Capable and Advanced Learning eligibility are maintained as long as the student is continuously enrolled in SPS.

Spectrum

Spectrum is offered for elementary and middle school students identified as Advanced Learners through a district testing program. For elementary grade students, Spectrum is offered at one or more schools in each service area. Every attendance area middle school also offers Spectrum. Newly-eligible elementary students must apply for Spectrum during Open Enrollment through May 31. (They are not assigned automatically when found eligible, since that may result in a change of school which the family might or might not want). Assignments to grades 1-5 Spectrum are based on space available and tiebreakers.

Advanced Learning students in grades 6-8 are guaranteed assignment to the Spectrum program at their attendance area middle school. Advanced Learners in 5th grade at elementary schools will be automatically assigned to 6th grade Spectrum at their attendance area middle school. Advanced Learning students who are already assigned to their attendance area middle school (but are not assigned to Spectrum) who are entering 7th or 8th grade will also be automatically assigned to Spectrum at that school.¹⁶ Advanced Learning students who are not already assigned to their attendance area middle school will be assigned to Spectrum at their attendance area middle school upon request, if they apply

¹⁶ Unless the student is already assigned to a program other than General Education, such as HCC

during Open Enrollment through May 31. Spectrum-eligible students may also apply for a Spectrum program at any other school through school choice, during Open Enrollment through May 31; assignment is based on space available and tiebreakers.

D. Montessori

Exclusive Montessori programs are offered at two attendance area elementary schools (Daniel Bagley and Graham Hill). Students, including those who live in a school's attendance area, must apply for Montessori. Students who live in other attendance areas may also apply through the regular Open Enrollment process. Assignment depends on space available and tiebreakers. Leschi offers a blended (contemporary and Montessori) program to all students.

E. International Schools

There are feeder pathways for language immersion students at International Schools. International School pathways are implemented as each cohort of students is ready to move to the next level. Assignment pathways are based on where students attend school (not where they live):¹⁷

John Stanford & McDonald > Hamilton > Ingraham

Beacon Hill & Dearborn Park > Mercer > TBD

Concord > Denny > Chief Sealth

John Stanford and McDonald are linked with B.F. Day, which is the guaranteed attendance area school if a family prefers that the student not participate in the language immersion program, as well as for students who are new beyond first grade and do not have the language background to be successful in an immersion program.

Assignment is guaranteed for non-attendance area language immersion students who apply for their pathway school during Open Enrollment through May 31.¹⁸ Pathway assignments are implemented as each grade cohort reaches middle school or high school.

F. Programs and Services

Information about locations of programs and services that could impact family choices will be available to families prior to the Open Enrollment period. Decisions will also be reflected in the designation of linked attendance area schools and will specify the services or program(s) for which the schools are linked.¹⁹ Information is also provided in quarterly reports to the Board, available online. (See School Board Policy # 2200 for additional information.)

¹⁷ Schools that have not been named yet are shown as TBD (to be determined).

¹⁸ One of the choices listed must be for the pathway school without designation of Spectrum (or HCC, if applicable).

¹⁹ Changes not connected to the Open Enrollment process are adjusted as needed. If warranted by student needs, intensive special education services may be added at other locations and times.

SECTION IV: SCHOOL CHOICE

A. Open Enrollment

School choice allows students to apply for any school(s) beginning during the Open Enrollment period through the end of May. A student may apply for any combination of attendance area schools and/or option schools. Open Enrollment applications will be processed as follows:

- All first choices will be processed first, then second choices next, etc.
- If more students apply than can be assigned, the approved tiebreakers are used.
- Waitlists established during Open Enrollment processing are based on the same processing sequence and tiebreakers used when making assignments.
- Each student may have one assignment and, if desired, be on one waitlist. Waitlists stay active through May 31, after which waitlists are dissolved and there are no further waitlist moves for the school year.
- If a student submits an application and gets assigned to the first choice school, the previous assignment is dropped and the student is not on any waitlist.
- If a student submits an application and gets assigned to one of the choices other than the first choice, the previous assignment is dropped and the student is put on the waitlist for the first choice.
- If a student submits an application and doesn't get assigned to any of the choices, the previous assignment is still in place, and the student is put on the waitlist for the first choice.

After Open Enrollment through May 31, students will be assigned to available choice seats on a first-come, first-served basis. After May 31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school (including K-8 attendance area schools), or to an option school with space available.

B. Tiebreakers

If more students apply for a school during Open Enrollment than can be assigned, tiebreakers determine assignment and waitlist status.

STANDARD TIEBREAKERS for available seats after assignment of attendance area students			Option Schools (all grades)
Attendance Area Elementary and K-8 Schools	Attendance Area Middle Schools	Attendance Area High Schools	
1. Sibling 2. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School 3. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Geographic Zone 3. Lottery

MONTESSORI TIEBREAKERS
Elementary Schools
1. Attendance Area 2. Sibling 3. Lottery

SPECTRUM TIEBREAKERS	
Elementary and K-8 Schools	Middle Schools²¹
1. Service Area 2. Sibling	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School

HCC TIEBREAKERS²²		
Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
1. Sibling 2. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School 3. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Lottery

C. Waitlists

Waitlists established during Open Enrollment processing are based on the same processing sequence and tiebreakers used when making assignments.

After Open Enrollment assignments are made and waitlists are established:

- Students may be added to the end of any waitlist through May 31, but no student may be on more than one waitlist at a time.
- Waitlists stay active through May 31.
- If there are multiple students added to the same school/grade/program waitlist on the same day, those students only will be sequenced by lottery. (They will not move ahead of students already on the waitlist from Open Enrollment or from a previous day.)
- If a school does not have a waitlist, assignments for space available are first come, first served through May 31.

²¹ For students applying for Spectrum at a school other than their attendance area school; no application is needed for students who want to be assigned to Spectrum at their attendance area school.

²² Elementary and Middle School HCC Tiebreakers are for students who want to attend HCC in a non-pathway school. High School HCC Tiebreakers are for students applying to HCC/IB at Ingraham.

D. Siblings and School Choice

SPS provides a variety of options for families who would like to have siblings assigned to the same school. Some options are guaranteed and some are not. A student's designated school is their attendance area school, or a linked school to which the student is assigned because the attendance area school does not have the required special education or ELL services the student needs.

1. New students who are siblings in the same grade span will start out assigned together at their designated school:
 - If siblings have different designated schools due to different service needs, the sibling without required special education or ELL service needs can be assigned to the other sibling's school upon request until May 31 (or at the time of enrollment if later).
2. Siblings in the same grade span who are assigned to different schools:
 - All siblings receive a tiebreaker priority during Open Enrollment when applying for a school which another sibling currently attends and will attend the following year.
 - After Open Enrollment through May 31, any student will be assigned to their attendance area school upon request. If siblings have different designated schools due to different service needs, the sibling(s) without required special education or ELL service needs can be assigned to the other sibling's school upon request until May 31.
3. Siblings who are already assigned together but who apply for reassignment together to one or more schools for the following school year:
 - If the siblings apply for the same schools in the same order during Open Enrollment, the applications will be processed using the "keep siblings together" rule: If all siblings cannot be assigned together to one of the schools listed, they will keep their original school assignments and all will be waitlisted for the first choice school. (No siblings are reassigned unless all siblings can be reassigned to the same school.)
 - Siblings may apply for different programs at the same school (e.g. one of the siblings applies for Spectrum at a school, while the other does not apply for any special program), as long as they apply for the same schools in the same order.
4. Twins²³ who apply for assignment together to one or more schools:
 - If they apply for the same schools in the same order during Open Enrollment, the resulting school and program assignment of the student with the highest SPS student ID number will determine the assignment of the twin as long as that school provides all required services for both students.
 - They may apply for different programs at the same school (e.g. one of the siblings applies for the Spectrum program at a school while the other does not apply for any special program) as long as they apply for the same schools in the same order. A twin who is not eligible for the assigned program of the sibling with the highest student ID number will be assigned to the General Education program at the same school (or the appropriate Special Education program, if applicable).
 - If the siblings are waitlisted for the same school and program during Open Enrollment, the twin with the lower student ID number will be placed on that waiting list immediately after the twin with the highest ID number.

²³ This includes triplets and other multiples, as well as siblings in the same grade.

APPENDIX A

Attendance Areas and Feeder Patterns

HIGH SCHOOLS

Attendance Area High Schools: Ballard, Franklin, Garfield, Nathan Hale, Ingraham, Rainier Beach, Roosevelt, Chief Sealth, West Seattle.

Option High Schools: The Center School, Cleveland STEM, Nova

High School Feeder Patterns: Denny to Chief Sealth and Madison to West Seattle

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Attendance Area Middle Schools: Aki Kurose, Denny, Eckstein, Hamilton, Jane Addams, Madison, McClure, Mercer, Washington, Whitman

Each Middle School Attendance Area has a group of elementary schools that feed into the middle school, and has one or more Option Schools or linked Option Schools.

SERVICE AREAS

Middle School Attendance Areas are generally also Service Areas. Most services needed by K-8 students who live in each Service Area will be provided within the Service Area.

Students may apply for any Attendance Area or Option School.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS	ELEMENTARY FEEDER SCHOOLS (Including K-8 Attendance Area Schools)	OPTION SCHOOLS	HCC PATHWAYS ²⁴
Aki Kurose	Dunlap, Emerson, Graham Hill, Martin Luther King Jr., Rainier View, Wing Luke	South Shore (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Denny	Arbor Heights, Concord, Highland Park, Roxhill, West Seattle Elementary	Pathfinder (K-8) Boren STEM (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Eckstein	Bryant, Green Lake, Laurelhurst, Olympic View, Sand Point, View Ridge, Wedgwood	Licton Springs (K-8) Hazel Wolf (K-8) Thornton Creek (K-5)	Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield
Hamilton	B.F. Day, John Stanford, McDonald, West Woodland	Salmon Bay (K-8)	Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield
Jane Addams	John Rogers, Olympic Hills, Sacajawea	Hazel Wolf (K-8)	Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield
Madison	Alki, Fairmount Park, Gatewood, Lafayette, Sanislo, Schmitz Park	Pathfinder (K-8) Boren STEM (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
McClure	Blaine (K-8), Coe, Hay, Lawton	Queen Anne (K-5)	Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield
Mercer	Beacon Hill, Dearborn Park, Hawthorne, Kimball, Maple, Van Asselt	Orca (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Washington	Gatzert, John Muir, Leschi, Lowell, Madrona (K-8), McGilvra, Montlake, Stevens, Thurgood Marshall	TOPS (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Whitman	Adams, Broadview-Thomson (K-8), Bagley, Greenwood, Loyal Heights, North Beach, Northgate, Viewlands, Whittier	Salmon Bay (K-8)	Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield

See the approved Transportation Service Standards for information about transportation eligibility.

²⁴ Ingraham also offers the advanced HCC/IBX program, but is not a pathway school.

APPENDIX B

Geographic Zones for Option School Tiebreakers

The tiebreakers for Option Schools are:

1. Sibling
2. Geographic Zone (GeoZone)
3. Lottery

GeoZones give tiebreaker priority for students who live near the school. In some cases, they can also be used to improve diversity and as a tool for capacity management. GeoZones are not a guarantee of assignment to the requested option school, and are likely to change periodically.

GeoZones for Option Schools are shown on the following pages.

High School Option Schools

- Center School
- Cleveland STEM
- Nova

K-8 Option Schools

- Hazel Wolf
- Boren STEM
- Licton Springs
- Orca
- Pathfinder
- Salmon Bay
- South Shore
- TOPS

K-5 Option Schools

- Queen Anne
- Thornton Creek

Maps of GeoZones are available on the School Directory page of the www.seattleschools.org website.



~~NEW~~ STUDENT ASSIGNMENT ~~PLAN~~
TRANSITION PLAN FOR ~~2013~~ 2016-

~~14~~ 17

~~Approved January 31, 2013~~

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I	Overview and Highlights.....	Page	1
SECTION II	Standard Assignments	Page	2
	A. Summary		
	B. Students Entering Kindergarten		
	C. Students Entering 6 th Grade		
	D. Students Entering 9 th Grade		
	E. Students Who Move		
SECTION III	Access to Programs and Services.....	Page	6
	A. -Special Education		
	B. English Language Learners (ELL)		
	C. Advanced Learning (APPHCC , APP HCC/IBX, ALO, Spectrum)		
	D. Montessori		
	E. International Schools		
	F. High School Open Choice Seats		
	G.F. Programs and Services		
SECTION IV	School Choice.....	Page	9
	A. -Open Enrollment		
	B. Tiebreakers		
	C. Wait ing Lists		
	D. Siblings and School Choice		
APPENDICES	Page	12
Appendix A	Attendance Areas and Feeder Patterns		
Appendix B	Open Choice Seats		
Appendix C <u>B</u>	Geographic Zones for Option School Tiebreakers		

Note: For information about transportation eligibility, see the approved Transportation Service Standards.

SECTION I: OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

A New Student Assignment Plan (NSAP) was approved in 2009 to provide greater predictability for families while still offering opportunities for school choice. Annual Transition Plans for 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13, and 2013-14 guided a phased approach to implementation.¹

~~This Transition Plan will be the last such plan required for phased implementation of the NSAP.~~ The provisions of this Plan will prevail in the case of any conflicts with the previously-approved NSAP, attendance area boundaries, and/or GeoZones. Unless otherwise specified, boundaries, feeder patterns, option school GeoZones, and assignment rules will remain in effect until there are changes approved by the School Board. It is anticipated that changes will be needed to address capacity management issues as district enrollment continues to grow. ~~The transition from the old assignment plan to the NSAP will continue to provide stability for students by continuing (grandfathering) assignments at schools they attended through 2009-10 and continue to attend.~~² ~~Assignments made for 2010-11 and beyond are not grandfathered and NSAP rules apply.~~

School assignments are based on approved attendance area boundaries. Every student has an attendance area elementary, middle, and high school based on residence. Elementary attendance areas are combined to create middle school attendance areas, resulting in feeder patterns from elementary to middle school.

In most instances, ~~the~~ the middle school attendance area is also a service area for elementary and middle school students. Various services are provided for students who live within a service area. Most specialized services for middle and high school students are provided at their attendance area school. If required ~~English Language Learner (ELL) or~~ special education services are not available at a student's attendance area school, the school will generally be linked with a nearby school or service area with the required services.³

School choice allows students to apply for other schools during an annual Open Enrollment period through the end of ~~September~~ May. A student may apply for any combination of attendance area and/or option schools.

This Transition Plan continues most of the assignment rules in effect during ~~2012~~ 2013-13 ~~14~~, while at the same time completing the phase-out of transitional constraints on full implementation of the NSAP. Some constraints on assignment of siblings to the same school are also eliminated. Some highlights and changes are:

- ~~Simplification~~ Elimination of the distance of tiebreakers
- ~~Addition of a distance tiebreaker for elementary and middle school attendance area schools~~
- Changes to ~~Spectrum middle school assignments~~ the date when waitlists are dissolved
- ~~Implementation of a GeoZone for K-5 STEM at Boren~~
- Updates to program names and locations based on previously approved changes

~~The Jane Addams building is designated to become an attendance area middle school, with the first middle school students assigned to Jane Addams Middle School beginning in 2014-15. Planning will begin with appointment of a Design Team in Spring 2013. The Design Team will initially work under the~~

¹ The transition plan and assignment rules apply to resident students only. Different rules apply for non-resident students.

² ~~These grandfathered students may continue at the current school as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.~~

³ There will continue to be a limited number of programs or services that are unique enough, and that serve such a limited population, that they cannot be offered in every service area or high school attendance area. ~~If a student is assigned to a linked school to access certain special education or ELL services, the linked school becomes the designated (attendance area) school. Throughout this document, references to attendance area schools also include linked schools, and assignments are always dependent on the school offering the services the student needs.~~

~~guidance of designated central office staff to allow time for the Design Team to be involved in identifying characteristics of the planning principal. A planning principal will be in place no later than September 2013.~~

SECTION II: STANDARD ASSIGNMENTS

A. Summary

Assignments to attendance area schools are based on residence. ~~All current students and all new students who complete early enrollment will get an assignment letter prior to Open Enrollment.~~ Students new to the district start with an assignment to their attendance area school.

~~Initial assignment letters confirm continuing assignments or provide notification of new assignments for the upcoming school year. These are initial assignments, and nothing further is required if the family resides at the same address and wishes to keep the initial assignment (as long as the school offers the services the student needs). The letters include information about the Open Enrollment timeline and process so families know what steps to take if they wish to request a different assignment for the upcoming school year. (See Section IV for more information on school choice.)~~

After ~~September~~ May 30/31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available. New students in grades 6-8 may also choose a K-8 attendance area school if they live within that school's ~~service~~ attendance area.

K-12 students may transfer to their attendance area school after Open Enrollment through ~~September~~ May 30/31, as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.

K-8 students who live outside of their assigned school's walk zone and are not eligible for transportation may transfer to their attendance area school at any time, as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.

Continuing Assignments

Students who will automatically get a continuing assignment to the same school, as long as the school offers the grade and services the student needs:

- Students who have not moved and whose current school includes their next year grade and current program.
- ~~Students with a grandfathered assignment from 2009-10.~~
- Students at option schools will be continued at that school through the highest grade served by the school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.
- Students with a choice assignment to an attendance area school that is not the student's attendance area school.
- Students at a K-8 school rising to 6th grade.

New Assignments

Students who will get a new assignment:

- Students whose current school does not include their next year grade or required special education ~~or ELL~~ services. Students will be automatically assigned to their attendance area school for the upcoming school year, except as noted for certain pathway assignments and to meet required special education ~~or ELL~~ services; no application is required.

- Students at their previous attendance area school who have moved out of the school’s attendance area (except students grandfathered at the school); no application is required.

Grandfathered Assignments

All students enrolled with a grandfathered assignment ~~from 2009-10~~ who stay at the school are continued (grandfathered) at that school through the highest grade served by the school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs; no application is required.

B. Students Entering Kindergarten

Students entering kindergarten will have an initial assignment to their attendance area school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.

- This includes students currently receiving special education developmental preschool services who will be five years old by August 31, unless their individualized education program (IEP) calls for services not available at their attendance area school.
- Students attending PreK at South Shore will be assigned to continue at South Shore for kindergarten.
- Students who meet eligibility requirements for early entrance to kindergarten are assigned to their attendance area school upon request, and may apply for other schools on a space available basis through ~~September 30~~ May 31.

For information on assignment of siblings to the same school, see Section IV-D (Siblings and School Choice).

C. Students Entering 6th Grade

New Students

A “new student” is a student who has not attended a SPS attendance area or option school at any time during the current or previous school year. ~~Students n~~ New students to the ~~district~~ district will be assigned to their attendance area middle school. Upon request, middle school students who live in the ~~service-attendance~~ area of a K-8 attendance area school will instead be assigned to that K-8 school.⁴ Students may also apply to any school with space available during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31. After ~~September 30~~ May 31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area middle school, to a K-8 attendance area school if they live within that school’s ~~service-attendance~~ area, or to an option school with space available.

Students Currently Attending an Elementary School

Students entering 6th grade from a K-5 school will generally receive an initial assignment to their attendance area middle school, except:

- **Highly Capable Cohort (APPHCC):** Students assigned to ~~APP-HCC~~ receive an initial assignment to their ~~APP-HCC~~ pathway middle school based on where they live. If they apply for their

⁴ ~~Catharine Blaine K-8 (McClure Service Area), Broadview-Thomson K-8 (Whitman Service Area), Madrona K-8 (Washington Service Area)~~

attendance area middle school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, they will be assigned to that school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).

Students eligible for (but not assigned to) ~~APP-HCC~~ for the following school year are not automatically assigned to their ~~APP-HCC~~ pathway school; they must apply during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31. If they apply for ~~APP-HCC~~ during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, they will be assigned to their ~~APP-HCC~~ pathway school. Assignment to the non-pathway school depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.

If a student becomes eligible ~~for as APP-HCC~~ for the current or following school year after ~~September 30~~ May 31 and applies for ~~APP-HCC~~, they will be assigned to their ~~APP-HCC~~ pathway school.⁵ Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested through ~~September 30~~ May 31 and depends on space available.

- **Spectrum:** 5th grade students eligible ~~for Spectrum~~ as Advanced Learners will receive an initial assignment to Spectrum at their attendance area middle school for 6th grade; no application is required.

~~-Any student identified as an Advanced Learner Spectrum-eligible student~~ may apply for Spectrum at another attendance area school or K-8 school with Spectrum during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31; assignment is based on space available and tiebreakers.

- **International Schools:** Non-attendance area students who are eligible for an International Schools pathway, and who apply during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, will be assigned there (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).⁶ Elementary to middle school pathways go into effect when an elementary program extends through 5th grade.

Students may also apply for any school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, including K-8, attendance area, and option schools. Assignment depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.

Students Currently Attending a K-8 School

Students entering 6th grade and attending K-8 schools will be assigned to continue at their current K-8 school for 6th grade, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.⁷

- If they apply for their attendance area middle school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31 they will be assigned to their attendance area school as long as the school offers the services the student needs (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).

Students may apply for any school with space available during or after Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31.

⁵ This occurs when a student is new to the district after the testing deadline has passed, enrolls from another public school district, and can document comparable eligibility and participation in that district's similar program for gifted students. Eligibility is determined by the Advanced Learning department.

⁶ One of the choices listed must be for the pathway school without designation of Spectrum (or ~~APP-HCC~~ if applicable).

⁷ Students enrolled in Spectrum at their K-8 school will be continued in Spectrum without having to reapply.

- **APPHCC:** Students eligible ~~for (but not assigned to)~~ as APP-HCC for the following school year are not automatically assigned to their APP-HCC pathway school. If they apply for APP-HCC during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, they will be assigned to their APP-HCC pathway school. Assignment to the non-pathway school depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.

If a student becomes eligible for APP-HCC for the current or following school year after ~~September 30~~ May 31 and applies for APPHCC, they will be assigned to their APP-HCC pathway school.⁸ Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested through ~~September 30~~ May 31 and depends on space available.

- **Spectrum:** ~~Spectrum-eligible students~~ Advanced Learners who apply for their attendance area school by ~~September 30~~ May 31 will be assigned to Spectrum at that school, -as long as the school offers the services the student needs (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).

Students may also apply for any school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, including K-8, attendance area, and option schools. Assignment depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.

D. Students Entering 9th Grade

Current students and students new to the district will generally be assigned to their attendance area high school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs. Students may also apply to any school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31. After ~~September 30~~ May 31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available.

- **APPHCC:** Students assigned to APP-HCC in 8th grade will receive an initial assignment to Garfield. They may also apply for the APPHCC/IBX program at Ingraham; assignment to Ingraham depends on space available and tiebreakers. If not assigned to APPHCC/IBX at Ingraham they retain their seat at Garfield (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice). High school students who do not currently have an APP-HCC assignment but have met district standards for Academically-Highly Gifted-Capable students are eligible to apply for 9th grade in the APPHCC/IBX program at Ingraham. Assignment depends on space available and tiebreakers.

If they apply for their attendance area high school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, they will be assigned to their attendance area school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).

- **International Schools:** Non-attendance area students who are eligible for an International Schools pathway and who apply for the pathway school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31 will be assigned to the relevant pathway school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice). Middle to high school pathways go into effect when a middle school program extends through 8th grade.

Students may also apply to any school with space available during or after Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31. After ~~September 30~~ May 31, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available.

E. Students Who Move

⁸This occurs when a student is new to the district after the testing deadline has passed, enrolls from another -public school district, and can document comparable eligibility and participation in that district's similar program for gifted students.

When students move, they may have the option of or be required to get a new school assignment, depending on when and where they move. In general, students **must** change to their new attendance area schools if:

- They are assigned to their attendance area school (even if they have a choice assignment), are not grandfathered, and they move to a new attendance area. If they move before the school year starts, they must change schools for the new school year. If they move during the school year, they may finish the year at their current school, but they must change schools the next year.

Students **may** change to their new attendance area school if they move to a new attendance area. In all cases, reassignments are subject to any ~~ELL~~/special education services a student may require. Detailed move rules are available in the Superintendent's Procedures for Student Assignment.⁹

⁹ Available on the district website:

<http://sps.ss8.sharpschool.comwww.seattleschools.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=14926>

SECTION III: ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SPS offers a variety of programs and services to meet a range of student needs, including English Language Learners (ELL), students who need special education services, students who are homeless, and advanced learners. Many students are assigned to their attendance area school regardless of most service needs. For required special education ~~or ELL~~ services not available at every attendance area school, a linked school is generally designated. This provides predictable assignments for students who need these services.

Schools and services are also available for students who have various behavioral, attendance, or academic challenges as well as for students who self-select into certain unique programs. Students are assigned to these schools or programs individually based on specific needs and circumstances, not through the standard assignment process.

A. Special Education

Students who receive Special Education Resource/ICS¹⁰ services are assigned to their attendance area school, and may also apply for assignment to another school through school choice.

Students who are eligible for certain intensive special education services are assigned to their attendance area or linked school (for middle and high school students), and may also apply for assignment to another school that offers those services through school choice. The linked schools for these service models are posted online prior to Open Enrollment, along with linked schools for other programs and services, and provide greater assignment predictability.¹¹

- Standard assignment rules and tiebreakers apply.

Students who receive all other intensive special education services are assigned individually based on student needs, and may also apply for assignment to another school offering the same services through school choice.

- These assignments are in alignment with NSAP boundaries and feeder patterns, to the extent possible, depending on capacity, proximity, and individual service needs. Assignments are made individually to ensure that each student's IEP requirements can be met and that the appropriate services are available at the assigned school. Transportation for students with disabilities is based on individual needs.

B. English Language Learners (ELL)

Most students who need ELL services are assigned to their attendance area school. ~~A linked school is designated to provide services not available at every attendance area school. This provides predictable assignments for students needing ELL services.~~ Students who need ELL services may also apply for other schools through school choice. Bilingual Orientation Center services are available for newcomers.

C. Advanced Learning (~~APP, APPHCC/IBX, ALO, Spectrum~~)¹²

Opportunities for advanced learners are increasingly and intentionally becoming more widely available throughout the city.

¹⁰ Integrated Comprehensive Services

¹¹ If warranted by student needs, intensive special education services may be added at other locations and times.

¹² See additional information in Sections II-C and II-D.

Accelerated Progress Program (APP) Highly Capable Cohort (HCC)

APP-HCC assignment pathways are based on where students live, not where they attend school. (See Appendix A.)

APP at Lincoln Cascadia > Hamilton or Jane Adams > Garfield⁴³
Thurgood Marshall > Washington > Garfield

- ~~• APP assignments continuing from 2009-10 are grandfathered.~~
- Students entering APP-HCC in grades 1-8 who apply during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31 will be assigned consistent with the approved APP-HCC pathways, based on where they live.
- Students entering grades 1-8 who become eligible ~~for as APP-HCC~~ after Open Enrollment will be assigned consistent with the APP-HCC pathways, based on where they live.
- 6th graders coming from APP at Lincoln Cascadia or Thurgood Marshall will be assigned to APP-HCC at Hamilton, Jane Addams or Washington consistent with the APP-HCC pathways, based on where they live.
- Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31 and depends on space available.
- All 9th graders coming from APP-HCC at Hamilton, Jane Addams, or Washington will be assigned to Garfield and may apply for the APPHCC/IBX program at Ingraham.

If students assigned to APP-HCC apply for their attendance area school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, they will be assigned to their attendance area school.

APPHCC/IBX Program at Ingraham High School

A second advanced learning option for APPHCC-eligible high school students is offered at Ingraham.⁴⁴ Academically-Highly Gifted Capable APPHCC/IBX students will generally take core classes together and then enroll in International Baccalaureate classes beginning in 10th grade – a year earlier than usual. An accelerated curriculum leads to an early IB diploma, allowing seniors to complete internships, college classes, and further electives.

Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO)

Students apply as general education students to schools offering the program (grades 1-5). ALO serves students identified as Academically-Highly Gifted Capable, Academically-Gifted, and/or identified as advanced Advanced learners Learners.⁴⁵ ~~Students participating in ALO who have met Spectrum or APP eligibility requirements maintain that eligibility through participation in an ALO program. A complete list of schools offering ALO will be available prior to Open Enrollment.~~

-Highly Capable and Advanced Learning eligibility are maintained as long as the student is continuously enrolled in SPS.

Spectrum

⁴³ APP at Lincoln Cascadia will remain at Lincoln for the next five school years, including this year.

⁴⁴ Grades 9-11 in 2013-14, and grades 9-12 beginning in 2014-15.

⁴⁵ Students do not need to be found eligible through a district testing process to participate in an ALO program. However, they do need to be found eligible through a district testing process to be assigned to Spectrum at their attendance area middle school.

Spectrum is offered for elementary and middle school students identified as ~~Academically Gifted~~ Advanced Learners through a district testing program. For elementary grade students, Spectrum is offered at one or more schools in each service area. Every attendance area middle school also offers Spectrum. Newly-eligible elementary students must apply for Spectrum during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31. (They are not assigned automatically when found eligible, since that may result in a change of school which the family might or might not want). Assignments to grades 1-5 Spectrum are based on space available and tiebreakers.

~~Spectrum-eligible~~ Advanced Learning students in grades 6-8 are guaranteed assignment to the Spectrum program at their attendance area middle school. ~~Spectrum-eligible students~~ Advanced Learners in 5th grade at elementary schools will be automatically assigned to 6th grade Spectrum at their attendance area middle school. ~~Spectrum-eligible~~ Advanced Learning -students who are already assigned to their attendance area middle school (but are not assigned to Spectrum) who are entering 7th or 8th grade will also be automatically assigned to Spectrum at that school.¹⁶ Advanced Learning ~~Spectrum-eligible~~ students who are not already assigned to their attendance area middle school will be assigned to Spectrum at their attendance area middle school upon request, if they apply during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31. Spectrum-eligible students may also apply for a Spectrum program at any other school through school choice, during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31; assignment is based on space available and tiebreakers.

D. Montessori

Exclusive M Montessori programs are offered at ~~several~~ two attendance area elementary schools (Daniel Bagley, ~~and~~ Graham Hill, ~~and~~ Leschi). Students, including those who live in a school's attendance area, must apply for Montessori. Students who live in other attendance areas may also apply through the regular Open Enrollment process. Assignment depends on space available and tiebreakers. Leschi will offer a blended (contemporary and Montessori) program to all students.

E. International Schools

There are feeder pathways for language immersion students at International Schools. International School pathways are implemented as each cohort of students is ready to move to the next level. Assignment pathways are based on where students attend school (not where they live):¹⁷

John Stanford & McDonald > Hamilton > Ingraham

Beacon Hill & Dearborn Park > Mercer > TBD

Concord ~~& Elementary TBD~~ > Denny > Chief Sealth

John Stanford and McDonald are linked with B.F. Day, which is the guaranteed attendance area school if a family prefers that the student not participate in the language immersion program, as well as for students who are new beyond first grade and do not have the language background to be successful in an immersion program.

Assignment is guaranteed for non-attendance area language immersion students who apply for their pathway school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31.¹⁸ Pathway assignments are implemented as each grade cohort reaches middle school or high school.

~~F. High School Open Choice Seats~~

¹⁶ Unless the student is already assigned to a program other than General Education, such as APPHCC

¹⁷ ~~Two s~~ Schools that have not been named yet ~~and~~ are shown as TBD (to be determined).

¹⁸ One of the choices listed must be for the pathway school without designation of Spectrum (or APPHCC, if applicable).

~~High school students in all grades can apply for Open Choice seats at other attendance area high schools, and the change to a more lottery-based assignment process provides more equitable access to Open Choice seats for students throughout the city. (See Appendix B for more information.)~~

G.F. Programs and Services

Information about locations of programs and services that could impact family choices will be available to families prior to the Open Enrollment period. Decisions will also be reflected in the designation of linked attendance area schools and will specify the services or program(s) for which the schools are linked.¹⁹ Information is also provided in quarterly reports to the Board, available online. (See School Board Policy # 2200 for additional information.)

SECTION IV: SCHOOL CHOICE

A. Open Enrollment

School choice allows students to apply for any school(s) beginning during the Open Enrollment period through the end of ~~September~~ May. A student may apply for any combination of attendance area schools and/or option schools. Open Enrollment applications will be processed as follows:

- All first choices will be processed first, then second choices next, etc.
- If more students apply than can be assigned, the approved tiebreakers are used.
- Wait~~ing~~ lists established during Open Enrollment processing are based on the same processing sequence and tiebreakers used when making assignments.
- Each student may have one assignment and, if desired, be on one wait~~ing~~ list. Wait~~ing~~ lists stay active through ~~September 30~~ May 31, after which wait~~ing~~ lists are dissolved and there are no further wait~~ing~~ list moves for the school year.
- If a student submits an application and gets assigned to the first choice school, the previous assignment is dropped and the student is not on any wait~~ing~~ list.
- If a student submits an application and gets assigned to one of the choices other than the first choice, the previous assignment is dropped and the student is put on the wait~~ing~~ list for the first choice.
- If a student submits an application and doesn't get assigned to any of the choices, the previous assignment is still in place, and the student is put on the wait~~ing~~ list for the first choice.

After Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, students will be assigned to available choice seats on a first-come, first-served basis. After ~~September 30~~ May 31, assignments for new students are to their

¹⁹ Changes not connected to the Open Enrollment process are adjusted as needed. If warranted by student needs, intensive special education services may be added at other locations and times.

attendance area school (including K-8 attendance area schools), or to an option school with space available.

B. Tiebreakers

If more students apply for a school during Open Enrollment than can be assigned, tiebreakers determine assignment and waiting-list status.

STANDARD TIEBREAKERS ²⁰ for available seats after assignment of attendance area students			Option Schools (all grades)
Attendance Area Elementary and K-8 Schools	Attendance Area Middle Schools	Attendance Area High Schools	
1. Sibling 2. Distance 3 2. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School 3. Distance 4 3 . Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School (to Chief Sealth/ West Seattle HS only) 3 2. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Geographic Zone 3. Lottery
MONTESSORI TIEBREAKERS			
Elementary Schools			
1. Attendance Area 2. Sibling 3. Distance 4. 3 . Lottery			

²⁰-A one-year non-continuing special program preference for Thornton Creek 5th-graders applying to Salmon Bay as their first-choice school during Open Enrollment is included as part of capacity management for Eckstein during 2013-14. This is the second tiebreaker after siblings for Salmon Bay. [Note: This preference, without transportation, was originally approved on January 31, 2013. However, the Board subsequently (February 6, 2013) approved the Transportation Service Standards for 2013-14, which continued current transportation provisions to Salmon Bay. (Footnote continues on next page.)]

SPECTRUM TIEBREAKERS		
Elementary and K-8 Schools	Middle Schools ²¹	
1. Service Area 2. Sibling 3. Distance 4. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School 3. Distance 4. Lottery	

APP-HCC TIEBREAKERS ²²		
Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
1. Sibling 2. Distance 3 2. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School 3. Distance 4 3. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Lottery

C. Waiting Lists

Waiting lists established during Open Enrollment processing are based on the same processing sequence and tiebreakers used when making assignments.

After Open Enrollment assignments are made and waiting lists are established:

- Students may be added to the end of any waiting list through ~~September 30~~ May 31, but no student may be on more than one waiting list at a time.
- Waiting lists stay active through ~~September 30~~ May 31.
- If there are multiple students added to the same school/grade/program waiting list on the same day, those students only will be sequenced by lottery. (They will not move ahead of students already on the waiting list from Open Enrollment or from a previous day.)
- If a school does not have a waiting list, assignments for space available are first come, first served through ~~September 30~~ May 31.

²⁰ ~~(Footnote continued from previous page.) Provide a one-year non-continuing suspension of the distance tiebreaker for 'out of attendance area entering kindergarten siblings' of current John Stanford International School (JSIS) K-4 students. (This is for students who apply for JSIS as their first choice during Open Enrollment.) All other students would be ranked based on standard tiebreakers.~~

²¹ For students applying for Spectrum at a school other than their attendance area school; no application is needed for students who want to be assigned to Spectrum at their attendance area school.

²² Elementary and Middle School APP-HCC Tiebreakers are for students who want to attend APP-HCC in a non-pathway school. High School APP-HCC Tiebreakers are for students applying to APP-HCC/IB at Ingraham.

D. Siblings and School Choice

SPS provides a variety of options for families who would like to have siblings assigned to the same school. Some options are guaranteed and some are not. A student's designated school is their attendance area school, or a linked school to which the student is assigned because the attendance area school does not have the required special education or ELL services the student needs.

1. New students who are siblings in the same grade span will start out assigned together at their designated school:
 - If siblings have different designated schools due to different service needs, the sibling without required special education or ELL service needs can be assigned to the other sibling's school upon request until ~~September 30~~ May 31 (or at the time of enrollment if later).
2. Siblings in the same grade span who are assigned to different schools:
 - All siblings receive a tiebreaker priority during Open Enrollment when applying for a school which another sibling currently attends and will attend the following year.
 - After Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, any student will be assigned to their attendance area school upon request. If siblings have different designated schools due to different service needs, the sibling(s) without required special education or ELL service needs can be assigned to the other sibling's school upon request until ~~September 30~~ May 31.
3. Siblings who are already assigned together but who apply for reassignment together to one or more schools for the following school year:
 - If the siblings apply for the same schools in the same order during Open Enrollment, the applications will be processed using the "keep siblings together" rule: If all siblings cannot be assigned together to one of the schools listed, they will keep their original school assignments and all will be waitlisted for the first choice school. (No siblings are reassigned unless all siblings can be reassigned to the same school.)
 - Siblings may apply for different programs at the same school (e.g. one of the siblings applies for Spectrum at a school, while the other does not apply for any special program), as long as they apply for the same schools in the same order.
4. Twins²³ who apply for assignment together to one or more schools:
 - If they apply for the same schools in the same order during Open Enrollment, the resulting school and program assignment of the student with the highest SPS student ID number will determine the assignment of the twin as long as that school provides all required services for both students.
 - They may apply for different programs at the same school (e.g. one of the siblings applies for the Spectrum program at a school while the other does not apply for any special program) as long as they apply for the same schools in the same order. A twin who is not eligible for the assigned program of the sibling with the highest student ID number will be assigned to the General Education program at the same school (or the appropriate Special Education program, if applicable).

²³ This includes triplets and other multiples, as well as siblings in the same grade.

- If the siblings are waitlisted for the same school and program during Open Enrollment, the twin with the lower student ID number will be placed on that waiting list immediately after the twin with the highest ID number.

APPENDIX A

Attendance Areas and Feeder Patterns

HIGH SCHOOLS

Attendance Area High Schools: Ballard, Franklin, Garfield, Nathan Hale, Ingraham, Rainier Beach, Roosevelt, Chief Sealth, West Seattle.

Option High Schools: The Center School, Cleveland STEM, Nova

High School Feeder Patterns: Denny to Chief Sealth and Madison to West Seattle

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Attendance Area Middle Schools: Aki Kurose, Denny, Eckstein, Hamilton, [Jane Addams](#), Madison, McClure, Mercer, Washington, Whitman

Each Middle School Attendance Area has a group of elementary schools that feed into the middle school, and has one or more Option Schools or linked Option Schools.

SERVICE AREAS

Middle School Attendance Areas are **generally** also Service Areas. Most services needed by K-8 students who live in each Service Area will be provided within the Service Area.

Students may apply for any Attendance Area or Option School.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS	ELEMENTARY FEEDER SCHOOLS (Including K-8 Attendance Area Schools)	OPTION SCHOOLS	APP-HCC PATHWAYS ²⁴
Aki Kurose	Dunlap, Emerson, Graham Hill, Martin Luther King Jr., Rainier View, Wing Luke	South Shore (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Denny	Arbor Heights, Concord, Highland Park, Roxhill, Sanislo , West Seattle Elementary	Pathfinder (K-8) Boren K-5-STEM at Boren (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Eckstein	Bryant, Green Lake, John Rogers , Laurelhurst, Olympic Hills , Olympic View, Sacajawea , Sand Point, View Ridge, Wedgwood	Licton Springs Pinchurst (K-8) Jane Addams Hazel Wolf (K-8) Thornton Creek (K-5)	APP at Lincoln Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield
Hamilton	B.F. Day, John Stanford, McDonald, West Woodland	Salmon Bay (K-8)	APP at Lincoln Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield
Jane Addams	John Rogers , Olympic Hills , Sacajawea	Hazel Wolf (K-8)	Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield
Madison	Alki, Fairmount Park , Gatewood, Lafayette, Sanislo , Schmitz Park	Pathfinder (K-8) Boren K-5-STEM at Boren (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
McClure	Blaine (K-8), Coe, Hay, Lawton	Queen Anne (K-5)	APP at Lincoln Cascadia Hamilton or Jane Addams Garfield
Mercer	Beacon Hill, Dearborn Park, Hawthorne, Kimball, Maple, Van Asselt	Orca (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Washington	Gatzert, John Muir, Leschi, Lowell, Madrona (K-8), McGilvra, Montlake, Stevens, Thurgood Marshall	TOPS (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield

²⁴ Ingraham also offers the advanced APP-HCC/IBX program, but is not a pathway school.

Whitman	Adams, Broadview-Thomson (K-8), Bagley, Greenwood, Loyal Heights, North Beach, Northgate, Viewlands, Whittier	Salmon Bay (K-8)	APP at Lincoln Hamilton or Jane Addams Cascadia Garfield
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See the approved Transportation Service Standards for information about transportation eligibility.

APPENDIX B

Open Choice Seats

The number of Open Choice seats for 9th – 12th grade students from outside of the attendance area is calculated as follows:

~~Set target enrollments for each grade based on 25% of each school's program capacity.~~

- ~~• But, if projected enrollment at any grade is more than 25% of program capacity, reduce targets in all grades accordingly.~~

~~If the grade or school's projected enrollment is:~~

- ~~• 90% or less of the grade's target enrollment, the minimum number of Open Choice seats will be 10%.
— There will be more Open Choice seats added (above the minimum) if attendance area enrollment is less than 90% of target enrollment.~~
- ~~• 91% - 100% of the grade's target enrollment, the minimum number of Open Choice seats will be less than 10%.~~
- ~~• More than 100% of the grade's target enrollment, there are no Open Choice seats.~~

~~Elementary and middle schools do not have designated Open Choice seats. Assignment of non-attendance area students is based on space availability and tiebreakers.~~

APPENDIX EB

Geographic Zones for Option School Tiebreakers

The tiebreakers for Option Schools are:

1. Sibling
2. Geographic Zone (GeoZone)
3. Lottery

GeoZones give tiebreaker priority for students who live near the school. In some cases, they can also be used to improve diversity and as a tool for capacity management. GeoZones are not a guarantee of assignment to the requested option school, and are likely to change periodically.

GeoZones for Option Schools are shown on the following pages.

High School Option Schools

- Center School
- Cleveland STEM
- Nova

K-8 Option Schools

- ~~Jane Addams~~Hazel Wolf
- ~~Boren K-8 STEM at Boren~~STEM
- ~~Pinehurst~~Licton Springs
- Orca
- Pathfinder
- Salmon Bay
- South Shore
- TOPS

K-5 Option Schools

- Queen Anne
- Thornton Creek
- ~~K-5 STEM at Boren (new in 2013-14)~~

[Maps of GeoZones are available on the School Directory page of the \[www.seattleschools.org\]\(http://www.seattleschools.org\) website.](#)