STUDENTS

ATTENDANCE - Schools of Controlled Choice Seat Assignment

The District shall assign students in the Champaign Controlled Choice Program based on the following parameters.

Parents/guardians shall indicate, in rank order, their top five (5) different choices for each of their children’s elementary school assignments.

As student assignments are being made, the following criteria shall be utilized:

1. **Projected District-Wide School Enrollments** - The Superintendent will make an annual determination as to the number of students who can be assigned at each grade in each school of choice. This annual determination will be based on the projected District-wide enrollment of each grade, the average class size at each grade, and the number of enrollment strands that can be accommodated in each school. This determination will include programmatic needs (i.e. ESL/bilingual education and special education/IEP).

2. **Socioeconomic Status Guidelines** - The Socioeconomic Status Guidelines (SES) which have been adopted by the District, shall be considered when students are assigned to schools. When calculating (SES) for the upcoming school year student transfers into other grades, the average district-wide (SES) data for each applicable grade for the past three (3) school years will be utilized with a variance of plus or minus 15%. District-wide (SES) composition and the applicable flexibility range shall be determined independently for elementary, middle, and high schools. After the school year has begun, (SES) will be applied based on the District's then current actual enrollment data for each grade. Exceptions to (SES) may be authorized on a case by case basis by the Superintendent for good cause.

The Socioeconomic status guidelines include: Family Income, Parental Education, and Free/Reduced Lunch Status.
- Choice eliminates the need to continually redraw boundaries due to changes in the housing patterns throughout the District.
- Choice offers parents and students an assurance that once students are enrolled in a school, they may remain in that school through the highest grade available.
- Choice promotes academic excellence in all schools.
- Choice reduces the need for involuntary bussing and promotes Socio-economic (SES) diversity in the schools.
- Choice allows the District to monitor class size at each building.

3. **Siblings** - Preference will be given to siblings, foster children, and minors residing in the same residence with their guardian.

4. **Proximity** - While maintaining SES guidelines and seat capacity, and after programmatic needs have been met, the remaining seats will be assigned to non-sibling students based on their
Proximity Priority. 82% Proximity A and 18% Proximity B guidelines described herein. The proximity ratios and geographic areas may be reevaluated on an annual basis and are defined as the school(s) within 1.5 miles of a student’s residence or, if the student does not live within 1.5 miles of any school, the school that is closest to the student’s residence. Proximity Priority is applied to the applicant’s first choice only.

a. Proximity A students are those applicants who reside within the 1.5 mile proximity zone of the school designated as such student’s first choice. Subject to SES guidelines and school capacity limitations, Non-Sibling Proximity A applicants shall be given a priority of assignment over other Non-Sibling applicants who do not reside within the proximity zone of their first choice school. Eighty-two percent of the available seats will be assigned to non-sibling Proximity A students.

b. Students who do not reside within the 1.5 miles of any school shall be designated as Proximity B applicants.

c. All other applicants who have no Sibling or Proximity Priority will be assigned to available seats as the next step in the process.

Seat assignments will be held for the first five student attendance days of each school year. Families who intend to utilize the assigned seat at the chosen school must have their child(ren) enrolled and in attendance by the specified date. Failure to notify the administrators of the applicable schools prior to the end of the aforesaid five (5) school day period will result in the loss of seats in chosen schools. Open seats after said five (5) day period will be reassigned to students on the waiting list in accordance with the above guidelines.

Those families who have been recognized by the District to have extenuating circumstances (i.e., family emergency, educational sabbatical, temporary job assignment) preventing student attendance for any academic year must inform the administration at the chosen schools on or before April 1st of the year in which the student(s) are absent from their chosen school(s) if they plan for the student(s) in their family to return to the District in the following year. Assignments held for extenuating circumstances will be reserved for a maximum of one (1) year.

Unassigned Students
In the event that a family does not receive any of its 5 choices, the following steps will be implemented:

1. The Family Information Center will contact the parent/guardian by phone and send a follow-up letter.
2. The Family Information Center staff will present the family with a list of schools that have available seats based on Socioeconomic Status Guidelines (SES).
3. Parents will then be requested to make a selection from the list of available seats. The district does not assign students without the consent of the parents.
4. Unassigned students will automatically be placed on the waiting list of their five (5) choices.
   • If offered a seat at the first, second, third, fourth, or fifth choice school and declined, the student will be dropped from that school’s list.
5. Upon parent’s acceptance of a seat in their second, third, fourth, or fifth choice school, the student will remain on the waiting list for their first choice school only.
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration will be conducted during the month of March at the Family Information Center in accordance with applicable District Policies.

MAGNET REGISTRATION FOR KG-5

Registration for Magnet Schools KG-5 will be held during the month of March. Students will be selected for Magnet Schools KG-5 based on the same criteria used for the regular computer assigned lottery. If Magnet assignment participation does not result in an assignment to a Magnet school, a student may also participate in the regular assignment process, through rank ordering of choices 1-5. Students placed in Magnet Schools KG-5 may not participate in the regular assignment process. Once a student is placed in a Magnet KG-5 school, the student’s assignment may only be changed through the transfer procedure or as a result of the student’s programming needs (i.e. ESL/bilingual education and special education/IEP).

NEW STUDENT/TRANSFER (Students entering grades 1-5)

The student transfer period for the following school year will be held annually during the month of May. These transfer assignments will be made once programmatic needs have been met. Failure to request a new school assignment during the transfer period will result in the student remaining at their current school for the subsequent academic year.

Transfer requests made for the following school year must be made during the new student/transfer period. Siblings will be given priority for placement prior to the new student/transfer lottery. The computer assignment process is based on seating availability and Controlled Choice guidelines. Families who do not receive their first choice school during the computer assignment process will have their student placed on a waiting list for that school.

“Same School Year” Transfers will be processed in accordance with the Controlled Choice assignment policy on a first come first served basis at the Family Information Center.

New students who transfer to the District must enroll in the assigned school for the assigned seat within three (3) days after notification of such assignment by the Family Information Center.

If students have a change of address during the school year, parents may request a transfer for such students to a different school which has available seats or such students may remain in the same schools.

WAITING LIST

The waiting list will remain in effect until the last scheduled attendance day of the first semester.

When students on the waiting list are offered a seat, their parents or guardians must notify the Family Information Center within 24 hours if the student will take the available seat.
Final Assignment Decision

If families have procedural concerns about the assignment process, they may complete a Review of Choice Assignment form at the Family Information Center, which must be forwarded to the four (4) member Review Panel for consideration. The Review Panel will be composed of two (2) Champaign School District Administrators and two (2) community representatives from the Controlled Choice Committee. The Review Panel will review procedural concerns which are presented and render decisions in accordance with District policy by majority vote of those present. The Review Panel will act upon all review requests within ten (10) working days. In the event no majority opinion is rendered, decisions will be made by the Central Office Administrator overseeing Controlled Choice. An appeal of the Central Office Administrator overseeing Controlled Choice decision may be made to the Assistant Superintendent of Achievement and Curriculum and Instruction within five (5) working days of receipt of a decision. An appeal of the decision of the Assistant Superintendent of Achievement and Curriculum and Instruction may be made to the Superintendent within three working days of receipt of a decision. The Superintendent’s decision on such matters shall be final.

Nonprocedural concerns must be addressed through the District's complaint process (500.17/R).

STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

Principals (or their designee) shall notify the Family Information Center of student withdrawals within 24 hours of the school’s confirmation that students have left the District.

STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

1. The Special Education administrative staff will provide information necessary so that parents of students who receive Special Education services make informed decisions when requesting to have children transferred to another school.
2. If a student who receives Special Education services can only receive the required services in one school due to programmatic needs, the student shall be pre-assigned to that school, in accordance with the Special Education administrative staff’s recommendation for services.
3. If documented Special Education services indicates that a student who receives Special Education services should not be transferred into any school that the student’s parents have selected, the Special Education administrative staff and the Family Information Center administrative staff shall notify the student’s parent of this determination.

STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE ESL/BILINGUAL SERVICES

1. The ESL/bilingual education administrative staff will provide information necessary so that parents of students who receive ESL/bilingual education services make informed decisions when requesting to have children transferred to another school.
2. If a student who receives ESL/bilingual education services can only receive the required services in one school due to programmatic needs, the student shall be pre-assigned to that school, in accordance with the ESL/bilingual education administrative staff’s recommendation for services.
3. If documented ESL/bilingual education services indicates that a student who receives ESL/bilingual education services should not be transferred into any school that the student’s parents have selected, the ESL/bilingual administrative staff and the Family Information Center administrative staff shall notify the student’s parent of this determination.
SCHOOLS OF CHOICE SEAT ASSIGNMENT – ELEMENTARY “CLUSTERS”
(GRADE 6 THROUGH 8)

Middle School children will be assigned to schools based on the District’s cluster model. Any Middle School students new to the District will be assigned based on seat availability and the Controlled Choice guidelines.

The District shall assign middle students to its three middle schools as follows:

Elementary “Cluster” Groups
- Edison: Carrie Busey, South Side, and Bottenfield
- Franklin: Dr. Howard, Garden Hills, and Barkstall

Stratton Elementary School and Booker T. Washington – Based on seat availability parents of students attending Stratton’s and Booker T. Washington will be allowed to rank their preference for their child’s middle school based on (SES), sibling preference, ESL/bilingual and special education program/IEP needs. A computer assignment process will be utilized to make Stratton and Booker T. Washington students’ middle school assignments. Parents will indicate their first, second, and third choices.

1. Projected District–Wide School Enrollments – The Superintendent will make an annual determination as to the number of students who can be assigned at each grade level in each middle school. This annual determination will be based on the projected District-wide enrollment of each grade and the average class size at each grade. This determination will include programmatic needs such as bilingual/ESL and special education/IEP.

2. Socioeconomic Status Guidelines (SES) – Socioeconomic Status Guidelines (SES) which have been adopted by the District, shall be considered when students are assigned to middle schools. When calculating middle schools (SES) for the upcoming school year, average district-wide (SES) data for each applicable grade for the past three (3) years will be utilized with a variance of a plus or minus 15%. After the school year has begun, (SES) will be applied based on the District’s then current actual enrollment data for each grade. Exceptions to (SES) may be authorized by the Superintendent on a case by case basis for good cause.

3. Siblings – Preference will be given to siblings, foster children, and minors residing in the same residence with their guardian. Older siblings may not be automatically assigned to the cluster middle school where an incoming sixth grader is assigned. In all cases for sixth grade sibling transfers, the older sibling must be in attendance during the school year for which the sixth grade transfer request is made.
STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

1. The Special Education administrative staff will provide information necessary so that parents of students who receive Special Education services make informed decisions when requesting to have children transferred to another school.
2. If a student who receives Special Education services can only receive the required services in one school due to programmatic needs, the student shall be pre-assigned to that school, in accordance with the Special Education administrative staff’s recommendation for services.
3. If documented Special Education services indicates that a student who receives Special Education services should not be transferred into any school that the student’s parents have selected, the Special Education administrative staff and the Family Information Center administrative staff shall notify the student’s parent of this determination.

STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE ESL/BILINGUAL/ESL SERVICES

1. The ESL/bilingual education administrative staff will provide information necessary so that parents of students who receive ESL/bilingual education services make informed decisions when requesting to have children transferred to another school.
2. If documented ESL/bilingual education services indicates that a student who receives ESL/bilingual education services should not be transferred into any school that the student’s parents have selected, the ESL/bilingual administrative staff and the Family Information Center administrative staff shall notify the student’s parent of this determination.

NEW STUDENT/TRANSFER (Students entering grades 6-8)

The student transfer period for the following school year will be held annually during the month of May. These transfer assignments will be made once programmatic needs have been met. Failure to request a new school assignment during the transfer period will result in the student remaining at their current school for the subsequent academic year.

Transfer requests made for the following school year must be made during the new student/transfer period. The lottery computer assignment is based on seating availability and Controlled Choice guidelines. Families who do not receive their first choice school during the computer assignment will have their student placed on a waiting list for that school.

“Same School Year” Transfers will be processed in accordance with the Controlled Choice assignment policy on a first come first served basis at the Family Information Center.

New students who transfer to the District must enroll in the assigned school for the assigned seat within three (3) days after notification of such assignment by the Family Information Center.

If students have a change of address during the school year, parents may request a transfer for such students to a different school which has available seats or such students may remain in the same schools.
WAITING LIST

The waiting list will remain in effect until the last scheduled attendance day of the first semester. When students on the waiting list are offered a seat, their parents or guardians must notify the Family Information Center within 24 hours if the student will take the available seat.

Final Assignment Decision

If families have procedural concerns about the assignment process, they may complete a Review of Choice Assignment form at the Family Information Center, which must be forwarded to the four (4) member Review Panel for consideration. The Review Panel will be composed of two (2) Champaign School District Administrators and two (2) community representatives from the Controlled Choice Committee. The Review Panel will review procedural concerns which are presented and render decisions in accordance with District policy by majority vote of those present. The Review Panel will act upon all review requests within ten (10) working days. In the event no majority opinion is rendered, decisions will be made by the Central Office Administrator overseeing Controlled Choice. An appeal of the decision may be made to the Assistant Superintendent of Achievement and Curriculum and Instruction within five (5) working days of receipt of a decision. An appeal of the decision of the Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Achievement and Curriculum and Instruction may be made to the Superintendent within three working days of receipt of a decision. The Superintendent’s decision on such matters shall be final.

Nonprocedural concerns must be addressed through the District's complaint process (500.17/R).

Approved December 10, 2012