

Providence Public School Board Policy
STUDENTS
ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS

Purpose The student assignment plan is intended to achieve the following four goals:

1. Implement an assignment process that is fair and equitable for every child in Providence
2. Provide families with greater input into the school their children will attend
3. Provide students with a greater opportunity to attend Neighborhood schools
4. Allow siblings to attend the same school.

Students Affected The assignment plan, notwithstanding certain provisions which apply to a limited subset of students, affects all students in grades K – 12.

General Procedures School assignment will take place during the spring prior to the next school year.

Families with students entering kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 9 will be allowed to indicate four preferred school choices for their child/children and will be required to make their choices by the assigned deadlines.

A student will be placed in order of their choices to the extent school capacity allows. If there are more requests than seats, students of equal priority with the same preference for the same school are randomly ordered for purposes of determining assignment.

Students who submit choices after the initial deadline may have fewer choices based on availability.

Neighborhood School Defined “Neighborhood” schools for this plan are those schools that meet the School Board Transportation policy “walk zone” criteria based on a student’s residence of record – one mile for grades K-5, one and one-half miles for grades 6 – 8, and three miles for grades 9 – 12. Under this plan there is also the opportunity for students to choose a school that is not their neighborhood school.

Every family will have at a minimum two (2) neighborhood schools. Some students may have more than two neighborhood schools, giving them more neighborhood choices. Those students in grades K-5 who do not live within one mile of any school, students in grades 6 – 8 who do not live within one and one-half miles of any school, and students in grades 9-12 who do not live within three miles of any school will have the two schools closest to their residence of record designated as their “neighborhood” schools. Those students who have only one neighborhood school based on the set criteria will be assigned a second neighborhood school, based on proximity to the student’s residence of record.

Additionally, students who are enrolled in certain educational programs that are offered at a limited number of schools (ELL programs, special education / inclusion programs) will have a minimum of two (2) neighborhood schools if such programs are offered at more than one school. For these students, the two schools closest to the student’s residence of record that offer the appropriate educational program will be designated as neighborhood schools. If the appropriate educational program is offered at only one school, then that school will be deemed the student’s neighborhood school.

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| Residence Defined | A child's residence is determined by where the custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) resides; children living in group homes, shelters, foster care, child caring facilities, or any other Rhode Island state agency facility shall have residency determined by the location of such home / facility. Any child who is homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act, may use either the last residence prior to homelessness as the child's residence or the current location as child's residence. |
| Allocation of Seats | <p>General education and ELL seats for transition grades (Kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 9) are allocated as set forth below:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Category One: 80% of the general education and ELL seats in each school will be allocated for "neighborhood" students</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Category Two: 20% of the general education and ELL seats in each school will be allocated for "non-neighborhood" students</p> <p>Within each category, students who will have a sibling in the school at the time of entry will be given priority over students who will not have a sibling in school.</p> <p>Assignments are made in order of preferences: first, all 1st choice requests are processed; students who are unsuccessful with their first choice are processed with all 2nd choice requests, and so on through 4th choice requests.</p> <p>Students who do not receive any of their 4 choices are assigned based on closest school with an available seat in the appropriate educational program.</p> <p>In non-transition grades, students are assigned to neighborhood schools only; if no neighborhood schools are available, students are assigned to the next closest school with an available seat in the appropriate educational program.</p> |
| Advanced Academic programs, Exam High School and Technical Academy | <p>Assignments to an Advanced Academic program, Classical High School and Providence Career & Technical Academy are made without regard to neighborhood status and seats are not allocated into neighborhood / non-neighborhood categories.</p> <p>Students who apply to an Advanced Academic program or Classical High School when entering grade 6 or grade 9 should also complete school choice forms to provide school preferences in the event that the student does not gain admission to such program / school.</p> |
| Sibling Definition | <p>Siblings are defined as children who reside in the <u>same</u> household with a common parent/guardian. Cousins or other relatives who reside at the same address and who do not share a common parent/guardian do not qualify; foster children do. Twins/multiples are siblings who are in the same grade level, regardless of birthday.</p> <p>Sibling priority for assignment to school is applied when siblings are registering at the same time to attend Providence Schools (i.e., all are new to PPSD). Sibling priority is also applied for transition grades (Kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 9).</p> <p>Sibling status is one of several priorities considered in assignment of students to schools.</p> |
| Special Education Seats | Families with children enrolled in Special Education educational programs may choose from a list of schools offering the most suitable programs consistent with the student's individual education plan. Proximity to the student's residence of record is taken into account when special education assignments are made. |

Students entering Kindergarten, grade 6 or grade 9 and receiving special education services are allowed to indicate up to four preferred school choices and will be required to make their choices by the assigned deadlines.

Excess Demand for Seats When seats requested exceeds seats available for a particular grade / educational program, students of equal priority with same preference for the same school are randomly ordered for purposes of determining assignment. Once all seats are filled, the order of students continues for placement of student names on the wait list.

Waiting List A wait list will be maintained in any grade/educational program where demand for seats exceeds supply. The wait list may be limited in size. For transition grades, students may be placed on up to 3 wait lists for schools of higher choice preference. For non-transition grades, students may be placed on up to 2 wait lists. Once a student is moved from the wait list into an open seat, the student's name will be removed from all wait lists.

Change of household address and Neighborhood School When a child is enrolled in a neighborhood school and thereafter moves from that school neighborhood to another location and new school neighborhood within the City of Providence, that child will be assigned to the new neighborhood school closest to the new home address. This reassignment will take place based upon seat availability within the new neighborhood school. The family may also choose to have the student remain at the same school, however, if the school is beyond the walk zone as defined by the School Board Transportation policy, the student may be ineligible for transportation for the remainder of his/her attendance at that school.

Students who attend a school through transition grade school choice (grades Kindergarten, 6 and 9) OR through NCLB choice are permitted to attend that school through the highest grade offered and are NOT required to change schools upon change of address. These children are eligible for transportation throughout their attendance according to the School Board Transportation policy.

School Closure In the case of school closure, the process for re-assignment of students will be determined by PPSD. All special education reassignments will be determined by the Office of Special Populations.

Oversight Committee and Periodic Review In order to ensure the integrity of the plan an Oversight Committee will be formed. This committee will consist of community members outside of the School Department and will be responsible for reviewing the plan on an annual basis to ensure compliance with the adopted policies and procedures and make recommendations to the School Department to improve the system. In addition, criteria will be developed that will trigger an automatic review by the Oversight Committee. This criterion could include data pertaining to racial isolation, parent complaints, etc.

Registration Center The registration center and the registration process will be designed (a) to comply with the assignment policy and (b) be customer focused. Items that will be reviewed in the design of this center and process will include but are not limited to: staffing issues (quantity and quality), registration center locations, registration center hours, and parent notification.

A position of "ombudsman" will be created. The ombudsman will serve as a troubleshooter for families that are experiencing difficulty with the process or feel

that they have not been treated in a fair and equitable manner.

Parent Notification and Engagement

For the plan to be successful it is critical that all parents understand the plan and all the relevant deadlines. A comprehensive public notification and public engagement plan will be created. This plan will include print media, radio and possible television. In addition, social services agencies, community organizations, religious institutions and other social organizations will be used to get out the word. All communications will be delivered in the appropriate languages to ensure the greatest impact.

Review

Legal Reference

[References to any RI laws governing this]

History

Adopted: December 13, 1999 Resolution 429
 Amended: March 9, 2000 Resolution 2-76-00
 Amended: June 23, 2003 Resolution 6-32-03
 Amended: November 22, 2004 Resolution 11-22-04
 Amended: February 28, 2005 Resolution 2
 Amended: January 24, 2008
 Amended: November 10, 2008
 Amended: January 9, 2012