

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND PLACEMENT

School Selection Process

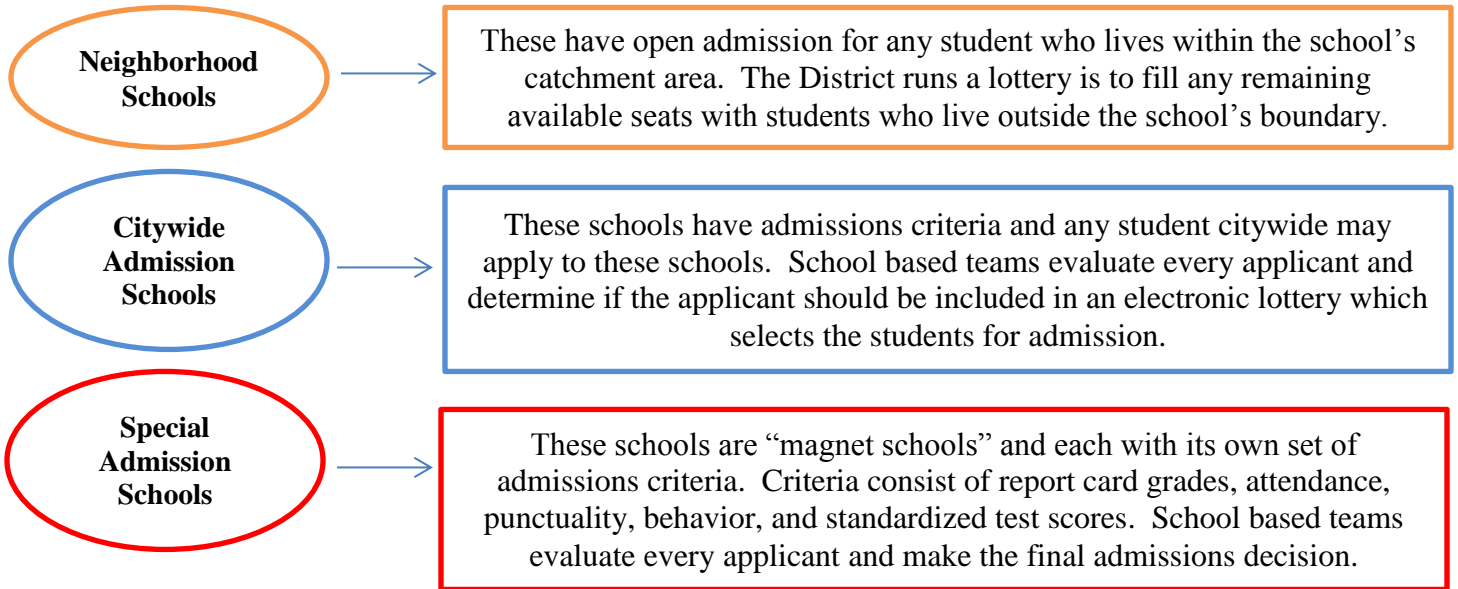
High School Parent FAQ

Who should participate in the School Selection Process?

The School Selection Process is for students and families who wish to apply to a school outside of their neighborhood boundaries.

What are my student’s options?

The School District of Philadelphia has many of options for students. Generally, the District has three types of schools as described below.



My child is applying to a special or citywide admission high school? What do I need to do?

- **FOR CURRENT SDP STUDENTS**
 - Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.
 - Your child’s academic records are automatically sent to the schools through the District’s School Selection system.
 - Some schools require an essay, interview or audition. Please work with your school’s counselor and visit the schools’ websites to review schools’ entrance requirements.
 - Contact the schools if an interview or audition is necessary.

- **FOR CURRENT NON-SDP STUDENTS**
 - Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.
 - Special and citywide admission high schools have academic, attendance and behavioral entrance requirements; therefore they will need a copy of your child’s most recent records.
 - You must take the following information directly to each school on your child’s application
 - The School District’s Student Data Transcript and
 - A copy of your child’s most recent standardized test
 - The chart below will help you know what to provide.

Applying to 9 th grade	Provide 7 th grade academic and standardized test score information
Applying to 10 th grade	Provide 8 th grade academic and standardized test score information
Applying to 11 th grade	Provide 9 th grade academic and standardized test score information

How can I find out the admissions requirements of a school?

The District's online High School Directory contains the admissions requirements for each high school. Your counselor or teachers can also help explain the admission requirements for each school.

My child is applying to a neighborhood high school. What do I need to do?

Review all of the many academic, specialty and career and technical education programs offered in School District of Philadelphia high schools. Apply to the schools you are interested in using the online School Selection application.

What is the timeline for the School Selection Process?

(Dates Subject to Change)

Month	Activity
September to November	Application submission
November to January	School based applicant evaluation (criteria based schools)
Late January	Lotteries are conducted
February	Initial Status Notifications are sent
March	Students are pulled from waitlist
April	Final Status Notifications are sent

How will the District communicate updates to me?

- FOR CURRENT SDP STUDENTS - All notifications will be sent to the student and family through the Student and Parent Portals. This includes school selection determinations.
- FOR CURRENT NON-SDP STUDENTS - All notifications will be sent to the email address provided when the application was submitted. This includes school selection determinations.

Should I visit the school?

Yes. The School District is currently compiling a list of dates when high schools will be hosting open house events. The schedule will be made available at schoolselect.philasd.org when it is completed. Please contact schools of interest to request the date and time of their open house or other opportunities to visit the school.

If I don't meet the exact criteria of a selective school, should I apply anyway?

Yes, we encourage all interested student to apply, but only if your record comes close to meeting the requirements. In close cases, principals at selective schools may seek recommendations from adults at the applicant's school who know the student. Interviews can also make a big difference.

If I am not accepted for admission to any of my choices, what do I do?

Keep in mind that you will increase your chances of admission if you apply to schools that align with your academic record and career interests. Please note that students are guaranteed admission at their neighborhood high school.

Can students with IEPs or who are English language learners apply to selective high schools?

All students are encouraged to apply to any high school that interests them if they meet the basic qualifications. The District facilitates an advocacy process for 8th grade students applying to selective high schools called the LeGare Advocacy Process. Students with individualized education programs (IEPs) or who are ELLs can learn more from their counselor or principal, and from the Office of Specialized Services at 215-400-4170.

Where else can I get help with high school selection?

Students and families are strongly encouraged to work closely with their school counselor. Guidance regarding the School Selection process and procedures are also available at area Parent and Family Resource Centers. Parents can also utilize the District's website, where they can obtain school profiles, access the online application, and utilize other resources related to this process.