



New Student Assignment Plan: Key Facts

Seattle Public Schools' New Student Assignment Plan plays a key role in the district's effort to ensure that every school is an excellent school. This document provides basic facts about the new assignment plan and the transition plan for 2010-11 as approved by the School Board. Additional information about the plan, enrollment, an address look-up tool to check attendance area schools, and a **schedule for school open houses and visits** are available online: <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign>.

- The plan will be implemented in phases, starting with grades K, 6 and 9 in September 2010.
- As the plan is being **phased in**, a transition plan is needed for the next few years. The Transition Plan explains the rules that apply for 2010-11 related to assignment, transportation and tiebreakers.
- All **students have an attendance area** elementary, middle and high school based on where they live. A group of elementary schools feed into a middle school. This is called the "Middle School Service Area."
- **Students currently enrolled in an SPS school** are "grandfathered" for assignment at that school through the highest grade of the school, providing that services the student needs are available at the school.
- **Students grandfathered for assignment at a school outside their service area** will continue to receive **transportation to the grandfathered school for two years** – 2010-11 and 2011-12. If the student moves, the grandfathered assignment will continue but transportation will not, except on a space-available basis.
- **Once students complete the highest grade at a school**, they will be assigned to the attendance area school serving their next grade level.
- **Students currently enrolled in grades PreK-11 and students who will be new to the district in fall 2010** and who enrolled during early registration (by January 15) will **receive an assignment in the mail at the end of February**.
- **Students applying to grades K, 6 and 9 in September 2010, and students new to the district for 2010-11**, will receive an initial assignment to their attendance area school.
- **Students can apply during Open Enrollment, March 1-31, to attend a different attendance area school or an option school** on a space available basis. If there are more applications than spaces, a set of tiebreakers will apply.
- Enrollment services information available at www.seattleschools.org or (206) 252-0760.

Additional New Student Assignment Plan and Transition Plan Highlights for 2010-11

Linked schools provide students with needed services: Students are assigned to their attendance area school regardless of most service needs, including some ELL and Special Education services. For services not available in every attendance area school, a linked school will be designated, providing predictable assignments for students needing these services.

Special Education kindergarten programs and Pre-K programs:

- **Students in a special education developmental preschool** will be assigned to their attendance area school for kindergarten unless their IEP calls for services not available at that school.
- **Currently enrolled PreK students at Graham Hill and South Shore** will be assigned to kindergarten at those schools and may apply for a different school during Open Enrollment.

Open Choice seats available to ninth-grade students: Ten percent of the ninth-grade target enrollment at attendance area high schools will be available as open choice seats for students living outside the attendance area. Students in other grades may apply to any HS on a space-available basis.

No changes to enrollment for the APP program: The Accelerated Progress Program pathway will remain the same: Lowell Elementary-Hamilton Middle-Garfield High for students in the Eckstein, Hamilton, McClure and Whitman service areas; and Thurgood Marshall Elementary-Washington Middle-Garfield High for students in the Aki Kurose, Denny, Madison, Mercer and Washington service areas.

Advanced Learning Programs added: Spectrum added at Arbor Heights, B.F. Day, Hawthorne and Madison; Advanced Learning Opportunity programs (ALO) added at Brighton, Dunlap, Emerson and Van Asselt; Spectrum at Leschi, North Beach, and West Seattle Elementary converting to ALO.

Fall 2010 Assignments for Incoming kindergarten students with older siblings enrolled in a school that is not the attendance area School: Seattle Public Schools will do everything possible to accommodate incoming kindergarten siblings. If a family wants to apply for an incoming K student to attend a school that is not their attendance area school, they may do so during Open Enrollment. We are applying various strategies to accommodate siblings. These may include adding portables, using libraries and music rooms as a classroom on a temporary basis, and increasing class size to contractual limits.

If, after applying all of these strategies, there are incoming K siblings who we can't accommodate at the older sibling's school, then we will **guarantee a seat for the older sibling at the attendance area school with the incoming kindergarten student upon request.** This means there is a "safety net" guarantee that siblings can attend the same school. *(In the case where the older sibling is enrolled at a school outside their attendance area in order to access special education services not available at the attendance area school, the incoming kindergarten sibling will be assigned to the older sibling's school upon request.) This "safety net" rule applies for Open Enrollment applicants; the incoming K student's application MUST list ONLY the older sibling's school on the application.*

- **Transportation provided for students living outside the designated walk zone, depending on school assignment: (For students with grandfathered assignments for 2010-11, see reverse side)** Elementary and middle school students - school bus transportation is provided to the attendance area school, and to any other K-5, K-8 or option school in the student's middle school service area. If there are no option schools in the service area, bus transportation will be provided to a linked option school. A bus pass for Metro transportation is provided for middle school students to an attendance area school or option school located outside of their Middle School service area, except for middle school students attending a linked school as specified above. Transportation is also provided to a linked service area so elementary and middle school students can access necessary ELL or special education services not available in their own service area.
- **Bus passes for high school students and some middle school students:** High school students living outside the walk zone receive Metro bus passes. Metro passes are provided for middle school students to an attendance area or option school located outside of their service area, except for middle school students attending a linked school as specified above.
- **Transportation for students with disabilities** is based on individual needs.