



September 16, 2019

Dear Partner Schools Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Partner Schools: Tacoma School of the Arts (SOTA), the Science and Math Institute (SAMI), and the School of Industrial Design Engineering and Art (iDEA). We want to communicate the process that will be followed for student selection for the class of 2024.

### **How do we advertise?**

- SOTA/SAMI/IDEA representatives travel to all TPS middle schools to provide information to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during lunch and in science/math/art classes
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselors receive 10 or more applications for distribution to their students
- Families of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students receive School Messenger calls advertising Information Nights
- Families of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students receive home mailings advertising the information nights and the application process
- The school websites advertises the information nights and application process, under the “Prospective Student” link
- Information Nights are held at all TPS middle schools, SOTA, SAMi and iDEA

### **Come learn more at the Information Nights for prospective students and families**

At the Information Nights, you will hear about the schools from current staff and students at each school, as well as have an opportunity to see videos of the schools in action, and ask questions about the school programs. About fifteen information nights are held each fall. An up-to-date schedule including dates and times can be found on our school’s websites and at [www.elementsofed.org/apply-now](http://www.elementsofed.org/apply-now)

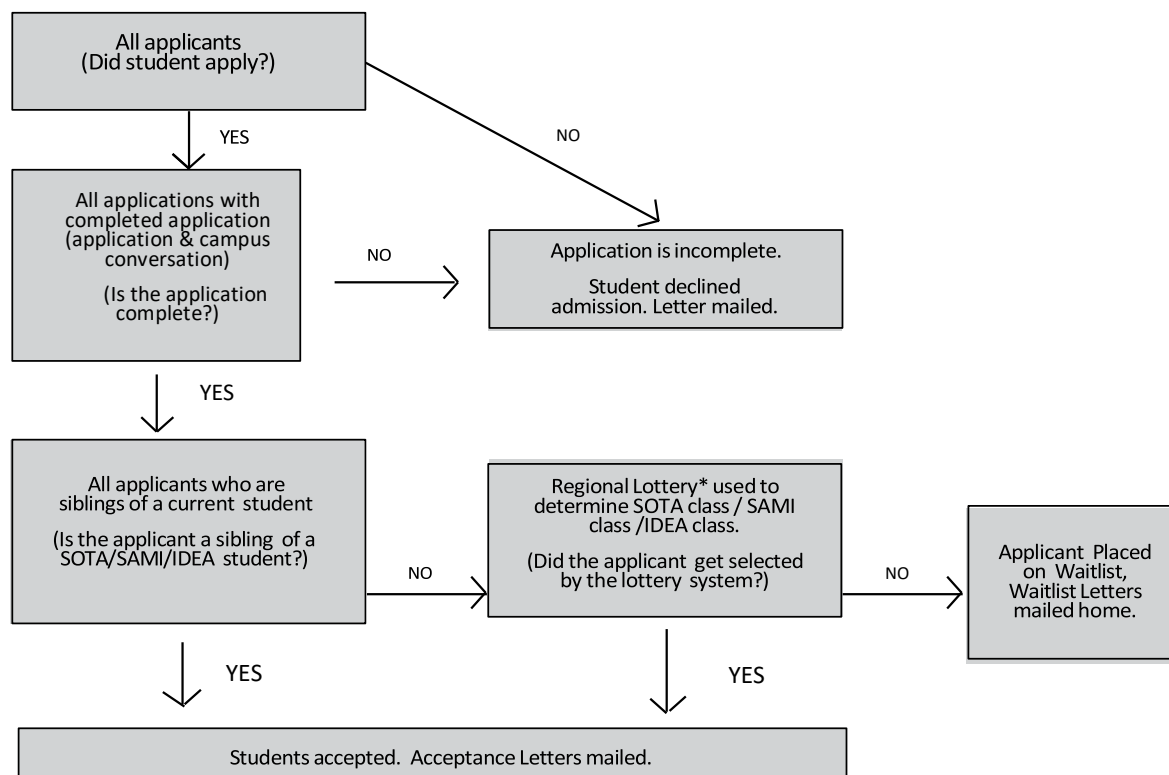
### **What is included in the application process?**

The application includes questions for the applicant to complete, specifically asking *why* SOTA, SAMI or IDEA are the best fit high schools for them. In addition to these questions, applicants are asked to submit one piece of best work from their middle school experiences. This piece of work will serve as jumping off points for the in-person Campus Conversation part of the application process. Campus Conversations are held at each Partner School and are scheduled individually for all interested applicants using the website. During the Campus Conversation, applicants are invited to see the school and sit down with a current staff member to review their application, ask questions and talk about their interest in the school. After completing both the application and Campus Conversation, the application is considered complete, and the student is placed into the regional lottery described below. Applicants are invited to contact the Partner Schools Admissions team for questions and help with their application as needed.

(253) 571-7911 [sotasamiidea@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:sotasamiidea@tacoma.k12.wa.us) [www.elementsofeducation.org/apply-now](http://www.elementsofeducation.org/apply-now)  
[www.tsota.org](http://www.tsota.org) / [www.tsami.org](http://www.tsami.org) / [www.tacomaidea.org](http://www.tacomaidea.org)

The flow chart below describes the process each school uses to admit students. This is done separately for the SOTA class, the SAMI class and the IDEA class.

### FLOW CHART



\*The Regional Lottery is defined each year by the percentage of 8th grade students attending each Tacoma middle school in the district. Spots available for each middle school are determined by taking the student spots determined available for the school (SOTA/SAMi/iDEA) and applying the percentage of 8th graders in each school. Example: If First Creek has 12.5% of the 8th graders in the district and SAMI is accepting 80 total students, SAMI will take 10 (12.5% of 80) First Creek students.

Accepted students will be notified by mail in early January. Qualifying students who were not selected in the lottery will be waitlisted and notified by mail. Students placed on the waitlist are eligible for waitlist lottery spots as they open throughout the spring. Waitlist lotteries take place the first Monday of each month. Applicants selected via a waitlist lottery will be notified by telephone.

Please note that SOTA/SAMI/IDEA are not a part of the Tacoma Public Schools open enrollment process. Should your student not be selected through the lottery, we encourage you to look into the other great schools in the Tacoma Public School District. Your student can get an open enrollment form at [www.tacoma.k12.wa.us](http://www.tacoma.k12.wa.us) or by calling Enrollment Services, 253-571-1000.

We wish you the very best and thank you for your interest in attending our schools.

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