



Book	Policy
Section	STUDENTS AND FAMILIES
Title	Student Assignment Plan - School Options Lottery Guarantees and Priorities
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I. School Options Lottery

The Student Assignment Goals were adopted by the Board in February 2016. The five goals are set forth in their entirety in Policy S-ASGP.

Three of the goals of the Board of Education for the Student Assignment Plan are (1) to reduce the number of schools with high concentrations of poor and high needs children; (2) to provide school assignment options to students assigned to schools that are not meeting performance standards established by the state; and (3) to provide choice and promote equitable access to varied and viable programmatic options for all children. In keeping with these goals, the lottery process described in this exhibit employs priority rankings designed to ensure socioeconomic diversity in non-magnet school options and full and partial magnet schools. The exhibit also describes the process by which students from low performing home schools may apply for seats in other home schools.

Through the lottery, all students may apply for up to three seats in non-magnet school options or magnet schools.

Students will be offered seats in these schools according to the guarantees and priority rankings set forth below. A random number identifier assigned to each student will be used to decide assignments when there are more students than seats available in a priority ranking category at a particular school. Students who qualify for the School Performance Priority for Home Schools may also apply for up to three seats in designated home schools and will be offered seats on a space-available basis.

II. Criteria for the Lottery

A. Guarantees

1. Continuation Guarantee

a. Students currently enrolled in magnet programs, or in home schools through the School Performance Priority for Home Schools, will be able to remain through the last grade of their school level and continue to the next school level or any designated continuation program. These students do not need to participate in the lottery, as their continuation school assignment is their default assignment.

b. Students who want to attend their home school rather than be assigned to the designated continuation program for their current school do not need to participate in the lottery. Instead, they must notify the Student Placement Office of their decision to attend their home school rather than be placed in the continuation school by completing the online transfer request form for the home school

d. Students assigned to magnet programs that do not have continuation programs must apply through the lottery if they wish to attend a different school option after the terminal grade of their current magnet program. The default assignment for these students is their home school.

e. Non-magnet school options do not have continuation programs.

2. Sibling Guarantee

a. The sibling guarantee applies to all siblings of a CMS student already assigned to a magnet program through the lottery or to a home school through the School Performance Priority.

b. The sibling guarantee is not available for siblings of students assigned to non-magnet school options unless one sibling is receiving EC services or enrolled in the Extensions Program regardless of grade. Sibling requests to non-magnet schools will, however, be given priority if space is available.

c. For families new to CMS, the sibling guarantee operates for all siblings in a family after one sibling is assigned to the school or magnet program.

d. The sibling guarantee applies only to the same Magnet Program on campuses that house multiple magnet programs with the exception of students receiving EC services or enrolled in the Extensions Program.

e. All siblings in a family must meet eligibility criteria before submitting an application for a magnet program.

f. For magnet programs, all students and their parents must sign the appropriate magnet compact.

g. With the exception of students assigned to a home school through the School Performance Priority for Home Schools, siblings who do not live in the transportation zone are not eligible for transportation.

B. Priority Rankings for School Options

The following priority rankings are for lottery applications for school options are listed in order of how they are applied.

1. Socioeconomic Status (SES)

- a. Each student will have an application priority determined by the SES of the block group within which the student resides, combined with any family self-reported data on annual income, number of minor children residing in the household and the highest educational attainment of any parent.
- b. The SES of a block group is determined for lottery purposes using aggregate census data on family income, parent educational attainment, number of single parent households, use of English in the household, and home ownership.

2. Proximity Area

The proximity area priority is applied to students living in the geographic area within 1/3 mile of a full school magnet. Proximity area does not apply to partial magnet schools or to non-magnet school options.

3. Transportation Zone

Students will have a priority for admission based on whether they live within or outside of the transportation zone for the school option to which they are applying. Students living outside of the transportation zone for a school option to which they are admitted through the lottery are not entitled to CMS transportation to the school.

C. School Performance Priority for Home Schools

1. This priority is available for students attending home schools designated by the state as low performing for three consecutive years.
2. The superintendent will designate home schools to which the students qualifying for this priority may apply. The designated schools will be determined by the availability of seats and the geographic proximity of the school to the student's residence.
3. As provided in Policy [S-SAGP](#), this priority also applies to students in the terminal grades of home schools designated by the state as low performing for three consecutive years. If the continuation schools for these students have also been designated by the state as low performing for three consecutive years, students may apply under this priority without having yet attended the continuation school.
4. Students admitted to schools through this priority will be provided transportation by CMS, regardless of whether they live in the home school area for the school. CMS will provide transportation through their terminal grade in high school subject to the exception provided in Policy [S-ASGP](#), Section IV, A, 4, for students assigned to schools under this priority who move outside their original home school attendance area.

III. Lottery Process

A. School Options

1. All seats available in the lottery at each school option will be designated in one of three categories: low, medium and high SES priority ranking categories.
 - a. The number of seats available in each SES category at partial magnets will be based on the SES of the school's home school enrollment on the 20th school day of the school year in which the lottery is conducted.
 - b. For full school magnets or non-magnet school options, the available seats in each grade level will be divided equally among the SES categories.

2. Students guaranteed seats through the continuation and sibling guarantees will be seated first, without regard to their SES priority.
3. After students with guarantees are seated, the number of available seats remaining in each school in each SES category will be determined. This determination will be based on the number of students seated in each SES category through the guarantees.
4. Students qualifying for the School Performance Priority will then be seated.
 - a. Students qualifying for this priority will be seated in up to 15% of the seats that remain in a school after students with continuation and sibling guarantees are seated, to the extent there are available seats in the SES category of each student's SES priority.
 - b. If the number of applicants with a given SES priority ranking exceeds the number of seats available in that particular SES category, students will not be seated under this priority.
5. Students living in the proximity area will then be seated.
 - a. Students in the proximity area will be seated in up to 15% of the seats that remain in a school after students with continuation and sibling guarantees and students qualifying for the School Performance Priority are seated, to the extent there are available seats in the SES category of each student's SES priority.
 - b. If the number of applicants with a given SES priority ranking exceeds the number of seats available in that particular SES category, students will not be seated under this priority.
6. The remaining seats in each SES category will then be filled by the remaining applicants living within the transportation zone for the school, according to their SES priority ranking and their randomly generated lottery number.
7. In the first round of the lottery, applicants living within a school's transportation zone may be put on a pending list if the seats allocated for the student's SES priority ranking category at the schools to which they applied are filled.
8. A second round of the lottery will be conducted at the conclusion of the first round. Students will be seated according to the guarantees and priority rankings described above. After these students are seated, if seats remain in any particular SES category, students in that SES category who live outside the transportation zone will be seated, first from Round 1 and then from Round 2.
9. At this point during the second round of the lottery, unfilled seats in any SES category will be filled, first from students on pending lists from the first round of the lottery and then with all other students, beginning with students living in the transportation zone and then with students living outside the transportation zone. Students will be seated even if their SES priority does not match the SES category of the remaining seats.
10. In the event unfilled seats remain at any school options, the superintendent is authorized to either conduct additional rounds of the lottery or to assign students who apply on a first-come-first-serve basis.

B. School Performance Priority for Home Schools

1. Students qualifying for this priority may apply for admission to up to three designated home schools in which there are seats.
2. The students guaranteed seats through the continuation and sibling guarantees will be seated first in this lottery.

3. Students will then be seated in designated home schools in which there are available seats, according to their random lottery number.

Legal Reference:

Previous CMS Policy Code: [JCA-E1](#)