SFUSD Enrollment 101

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Objectives of today

All participants will…

- understand SFUSD's enrollment process & resources.
- know about the upcoming Enrollment Fairs Oct. 22-27.
- understand SFUSD's current student assignment process.
- be aware of the work to build a new zone-based elementary assignment policy for future years.

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Enrollment Basics

Enrollment Basics - 2023-2024 School Year

Key Dates:

- **October 21st, 2022** -
  Begin! Online Application Portal Opens

- **January 16, 2022 @ 3pm** -
  Deadline for Lowell HS & School of the Arts (supplemental HS app)

- **February 3rd, 2023 @ 5pm** -
  Apply! Deadline for the Main Round

- **Week of March 20th, 2023** -
  Assigned! Main Round notifications sent to families

- **April 7th, 2023** -
  Accept! Last day to accept or decline your assignment

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Sign up for Updates on 2023-24 Enrollment

sfusd.edu/subscribe

sfusd.edu/text

Please sign up for helpful reminders about in-person workshops and enrollment deadlines!

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Yes! I want to know about the Enrollment Fair and how to enroll my child for school!

Email:

Zip Code:

Language Preference:

ENGLISH

Cell Phone Number (optional):

Submit

You agree to receive recurring marketing emails and text messages at the email address and phone number provided. Msg & data rates may apply. Msg frequency varies. Reply STOP to unsubscribe. Reply YES to subscribe again.

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Learn more at the Enrollment Fair

- Hear from school leaders
- Speak with current caregivers
- Learn about Language Programs, Special Education services, and more

- *Childcare available*
- *Snacks provided*

See more at sfusd.edu/fair

Student Assignment Basics

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How student assignment works in SFUSD

Click this 8-min video for more details!

1. **Families apply.** After researching schools, families list their school choices in order of preference and submit an application. There is no limit to the number of choices that can be listed, but the order does matter.

2. **All school choices are matched based on available seats.** Each school, grade, and program has a set number of seats. If the number of applications is more than the number of seats, then tiebreakers and random numbers are used to make offers.

3. **"Tiebreakers" are used when the number of requests are greater than the number of available seats.** Random numbers will be used for school assignments if tiebreakers do not resolve ties, or if there are no tiebreakers.

4. **Non-choice assignments.** Due to space limitations, not all students will be assigned to one of their choices. Those students will be assigned to a school with available seats closest to the student's home. (a.k.a. "designated")

Watch How Student Assignment Works

Video in other languages: Spanish ⬏, Chinese ⬏, Arabic subtitles ⬏, Tagalog subtitles ⬏, Vietnamese subtitles ⬏

Also at https://www.sfusd.edu/schools/enroll/student-assignment-policy

Advice from the EPC

1. **Apply in Main Round!** Submit your application by February 3, 2023

2. **Seek out & be open to multiple options**. We can't guarantee placement in any specific school for any applicant.

3. **Accept your assignments**, even if you apply again to a different school. There is no advantage to being unassigned.

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Future changes to Elementary Student Assignment

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Policy Overview

In December 2018, the SFUSD Board of Education passed a resolution called "Developing a Community Based Student Assignment System for SFUSD" to address concerns with the current system.

In December 2020, the SFUSD School Board approved [Elementary School Student Assignment Policy 5101.2](), requiring a change in how SFUSD assigns students to elementary schools. The policy involves a move to _choice within zones_, and holds the goals of diversity, proximity, and predictability.

We plan to start assigning students according to this policy in the 2025-26 school year.

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WHY? What problems are we trying to solve?

<u>Current policy</u> not working as intended

- **School segregation:** Our schools are more segregated by income and race than they've been in decades

- **Burden on families**: The current process causes stress and anxiety for families

- **Disconnect between schools & communities:** District wide choice leads to trips all across the city, and some families not being able to get into nearby schools

- **Under enrollment:** Dramatic variation in the number of applicants between schools isn't good for families and doesn't set schools up for success

Guiding values for this policy

SFUSD is committed to ensuring the quality of all schools so that no matter where you go to school you will receive a high quality education.
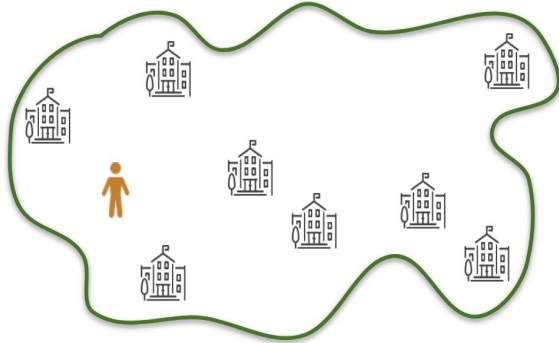
- Students are best served in learning environments that are racially and socioeconomically integrated.

- SFUSD will strive to ensure predictability, simplicity, and transparency as families go through the student assignment system.

- Schools are an integral part of the community, and student assignment should facilitate strong connections between schools and their surrounding communities.

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Main Features of the New Student Assignment System

SFUSD is moving from district wide choice to choice within zones.
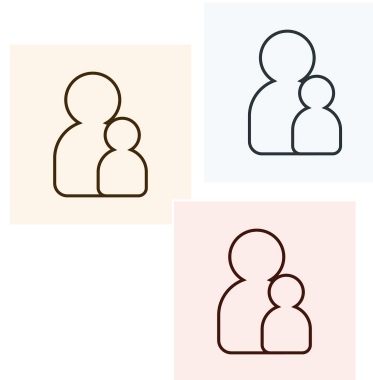
Organize schools and students into:
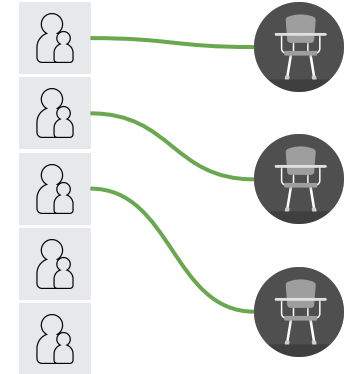
Zones

Assign students to schools using:

Diversity Categories

Promote diverse enrollment at each school

Tiebreakers

Promote predictability and equity

Important "knowns"

- **Families will still be able to apply to go to school together.**

- **Students will still have access to language programs and special education programs.**

- No individual characteristics will impact student assignment — geography will.

- Zones restrict choice. We are moving away from citywide choice, which might be frustrating in some cases!

- Student assignment alone can't make quality schools. It needs to be part of bigger work.

- Shifting energy from "I hope I get into that school" to "This is what my community needs for our students to succeed".

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Continuing to work together on unknowns

- Deciding on zone boundaries that make sense based on math & human input

- What it looks like in practice to promote integrated, inclusive learning spaces

- Ensuring that every SF family has access to schools that help their students thrive

Follow our progress at
sfusd.edu/studentassignment

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Thank you!

We are here to help!

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415-241-6085

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