

DC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

July 15, 2014

Meeting #13

Goals for Today's Meeting

- Review and weigh in on outstanding questions and technical team's suggested revisions.
- Review timeline for release of final recommendations

Agenda

- Review and discuss areas for revision
 - At-risk preference
 - School specific boundaries and feeder patterns
 - Phase in for new middle schools
 - Cross sector coordination
- Review proposed timeline for final recommendations

At-Risk Preference

Current proposal (#15 in June Report):

- Schools that serve less than 30% at-risk students should provide an out-of-boundary preference for at-risk students in the lottery.

Goals of current policy proposal:

- Provide at-risk students better access to high quality, DCPS zoned schools.
- Decrease the high concentration of at-risk students in a subset of schools.
- Increase shared responsibility across schools for serving at-risk students

Concerns raised about current proposal:

- Does this have an unintentional impact on middle class families?
- Could this have a negative impact on schools with high OOB families?
- Should this apply to citywide schools (DCPS and charter)?

At-Risk Preference

Three suggested modifications to current proposal:

1. Lower the trigger from 30% to 25% - so that schools that serve less than or equal to 25% would be required to provide an at-risk preference.
 - This would reduce the number of DCPS schools from 20 to 17 (taking Hardy, Stuart-Hobson and SWW at Francis-Stevens off the list.)
 - These schools have high OOB enrollments and are not among the schools that serve few at-risk families.
2. Apply policy to DCPS citywide and charter schools
 - The policy would not apply to DCPS selective high schools
3. Add a cap for how many seats per school offer the preference in an effort to address the concern of a high influx of at-risk students in one year for schools that have high OOB population.
 - Two options for consideration

At-Risk Preference Cap – Option A

Schools that serve less than 25% at-risk students will offer the at-risk preference for 25% of the available OOB seats made available in the lottery. This includes DCPS zoned schools, DCPS citywide schools, and public charter schools.

This would mean that:

Hearst would have offered the at-risk preference for 25% (17 out of 66) of their OOB seats.

Mann would have offered the at-risk preference for 25% (4 out of 15) of their OOB seats.

Total # of seats that would have been offered with an at-risk preference in this year's lottery had this policy been in place: 511 (226 DCPS and 285 Charter)

At-Risk Preference Cap – Option B

- **Schools that serve less than 25% at-risk students and have more than 30% OOB enrollment will only offer the at-risk preference to 25% of available seats in the lottery. This includes DCPS zoned schools, DCPS citywide schools, and public charter schools.**
- **Schools that serve less than 25% at-risk students and have less than or equal to 30% OOB enrollment will offer the at-risk preference for all available seats in the lottery. This includes DCPS zoned schools.**

This would mean that:

Hearst would have offered the at-risk preference for 25% (17 out of 66) of their OOB seats, because they have 82% OOB enrollment.

Mann would have offered the at-risk preference for all of their OOB seats (15), because they have 13% OOB enrollment.

Total # of seats that would have been offered with an at-risk preference in this year's lottery had this policy been in place: 654 (369 DCPS and 285 Charter)

At-Risk Preference Cap – Recommended Revision

Option A

All schools will offer the at-risk preference for 25% of the available OOB seats

Pros:

- ✓ Policy addresses the concern of negative impact on high OOB schools
- ✓ Policy is more easily understood – less complicated

Cons:

- Policy results in fewer number of seats offering the at-risk preference
- Policy supports a slow increase of at-risk students for schools with the lowest % of at-risk students

Option B

- **Schools with less than or equal to 30% OOB enrollment (including citywide DCPS and charter schools) will only offer the at-risk preference to 25% of available seats in the lottery**
- **Schools with more than 30% OOB enrollment will offer the at-risk preference for all available seats in the lottery**

Pros:

- ✓ Policy addresses the concern of negative impact on high OOB schools
- ✓ Policy increases shared responsibility across schools for at-risk students
- ✓ Policy results in higher number of seats offering the at-risk preference

Cons:

- Policy is more complicated to understand
- Policy reduces chance for non at-risk families to get a seat at schools with few OOB seats available

Specific Feeder and Boundary Issues

Technical Team will make the final decision based on the following criteria:

- Ability and need to solve for capacity issues at target school or adjacent school
- Ability to address imbalance in geographic feeder schools and help build robust pipelines up through high school
- Ensure decisions are consistent across the city
- Will consider the following data:
 - Estimated population change
 - In-boundary enrollment and boundary participation rate
 - Modernization status

Committee members should provide feedback on attached chart no later than July 21.

Proposal for Processes to Address School Specific Boundary and Capacity Issues

Current Policy Proposal (#37-39 in June Report)

DCPS must work with the local school and community to secure input into the studies on school capacity, utilization and attendance zones.

Proposed revision:

Advisory Committee recommends promulgating policy to:

- Establish a process for school specific boundary studies that:
 - Establishes a committee with school and community representatives
 - Outlines DCPS responsibilities
 - Outlines public information and community meeting schedule

Phase-In Proposal for New Middle School Zones

Current proposal:

- Students whose new geographic feeder pattern relies on the opening of a new school shall retain their current feeder pathway and geographic rights until the new school is open.

Goal of current policy proposal:

- Retain predictability for families whose new rights are tied to the opening of a new school.

Concerns raised about current proposal:

- There is a higher level of uncertainty for families who are zoned for schools not yet established.

Suggested modification to phase in policies:

Students whose new geographic feeder pattern relies on the opening of a new school shall retain their current feeder pathway and geographic rights until the second year of operation of the new school.

Cross Sector Coordination

Current proposed policy:

- Identifies issue as priority
- Provides a framework for coordination and information sharing, including key policy areas needing to be addressed

Does the Committee want to add more details to this recommendation?

Timeline for Finalizing Recommendations

Updated Timeline:

- Public feedback collected by **July 21st**
- Advisory Committee feedback on elementary school boundaries and feeder patterns collected by **July 21st**
- Technical team sends Committee proposed revisions by **July 29**
- Committee sends technical team feedback on proposed revisions by noon on **August 5th**
- Technical team sends updated report to Committee by **August 8th**
- Committee meeting on **August 12th**
- Transmit final report and boundaries to Mayor on **August 13th**
- Final recommendations and boundaries released publicly on **August 22nd**
 - Announcement of final boundaries and feeder patterns in the DC Register
 - Letter mailed to students and families notifying them of final boundary and feeder pattern changes
 - Post full report on DME website
 - Distribute materials (full report, final boundaries) to schools for distribution first couple weeks of school