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# Walkability Preference

March 6, 2017

# Agenda

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1. What is the proposed walkability preference?
  - Who would be eligible?
2. How do preferences work?
  - What is a preference and how does it work?
  - What preferences currently exist?
3. Analysis and impact using “mock lottery”
4. Concerns, Questions, Feedback



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What is the proposed walkability preference?

# What is the envisioned walkability preference?

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## Goal:

- The intent of the proposed preference is to improve access to walkable schools for our youngest students (elementary).
- This proposed preference in the My School DC lottery could help families without a walkable, by-right elementary school to access nearby charter schools
- This mirrors the proximity preference already in place for DCPS.

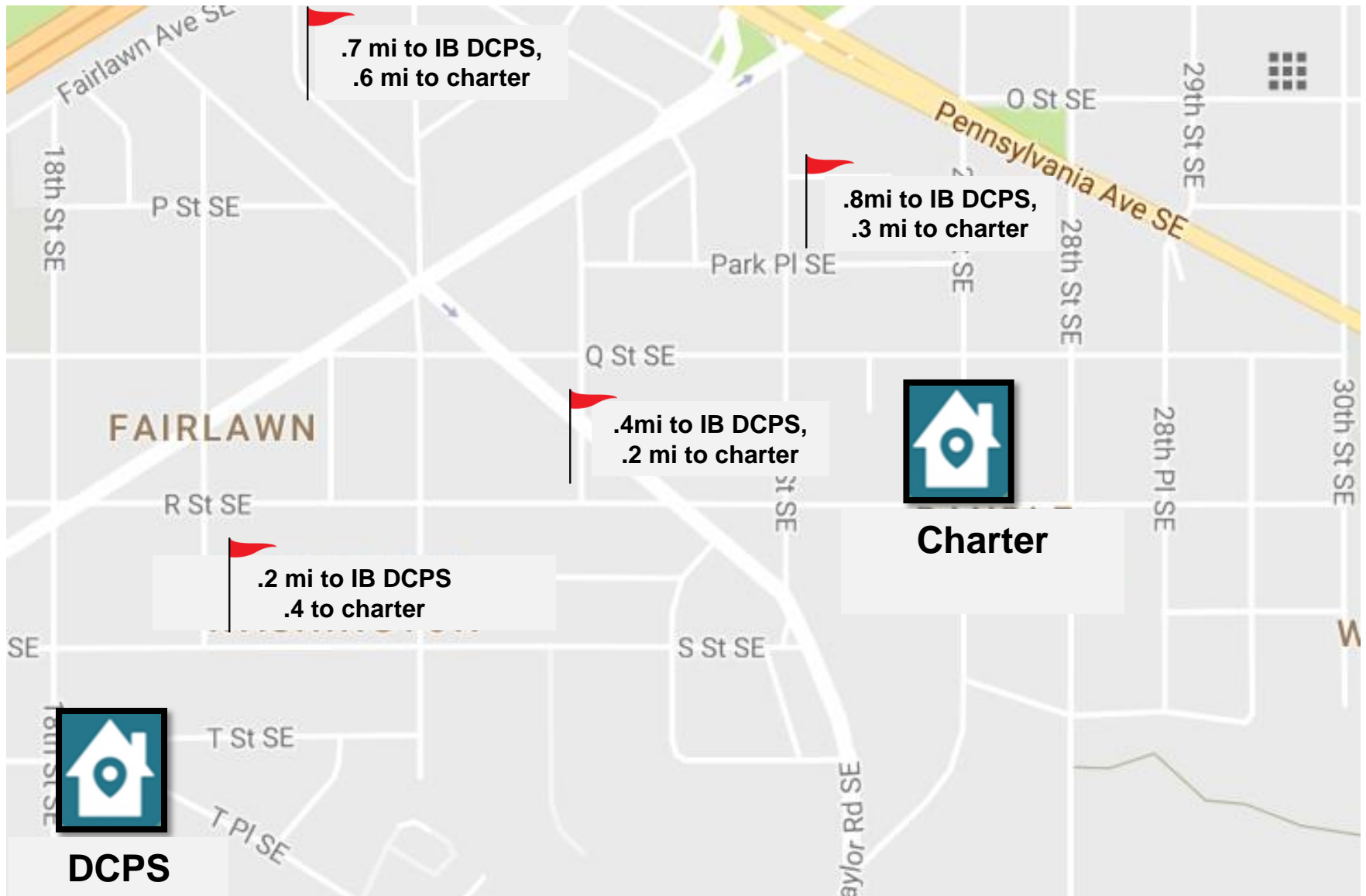
# Who is eligible for the walkability preference?

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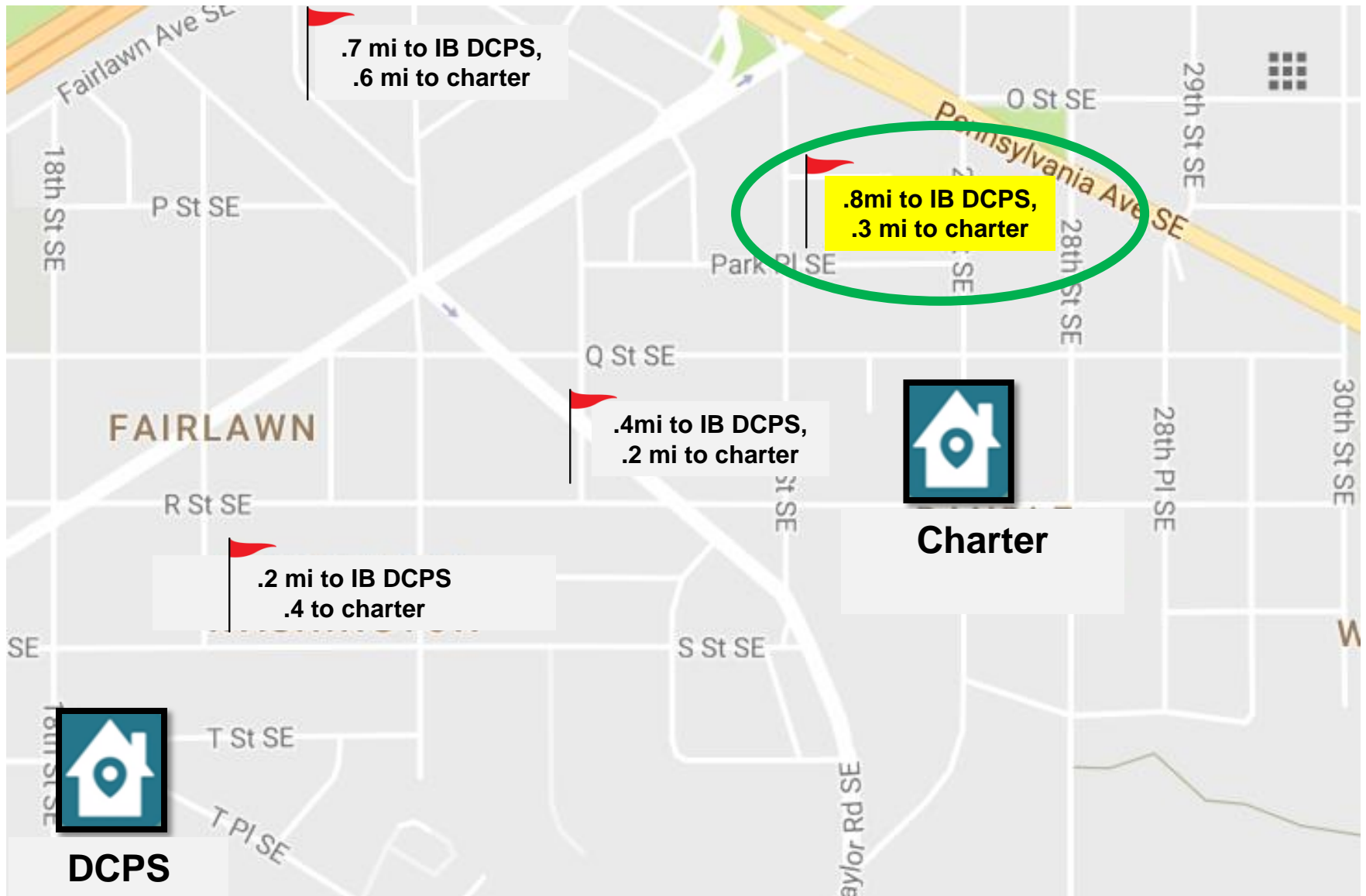
**An eligible elementary student (grades PK3-5) must be:**

- Living more than a half mile away from their in-boundary DCPS elementary school; and
- Living within a half mile or less of a charter elementary school that chooses to offer a walkability preference.

# Who is eligible for the walkability preference?



# Who is eligible for the walkability preference?





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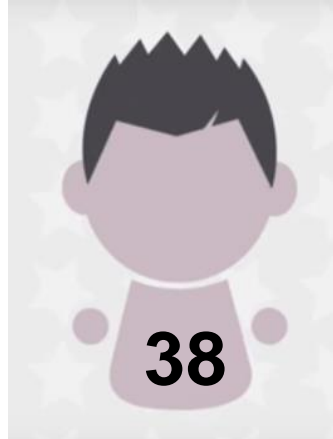
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How do preferences work?



# What is a preference?

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- Every student is assigned **one** random lottery number when applying to up to 12 schools via My School DC.
- The random lottery number is assigned to the applicant, and is used for all school selections on the application.

# What is a preference?

- Schools decide which preferences to offer to student applicants (e.g. siblings, transfers, children of staff).
- Students with a preference at a particular school are offered space and enjoy higher waitlist positions at that school before students who don't have a preference.
- Every preference that a school offers creates a preference group. Within that preference group, the random lottery number creates the order. A better preference “trumps” a random lottery number, even a great one.
- New charter preferences must be legislated.



See appendix for more details and video

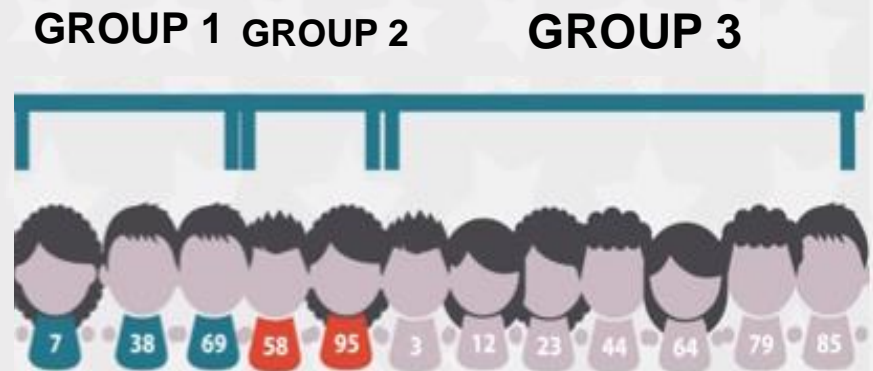
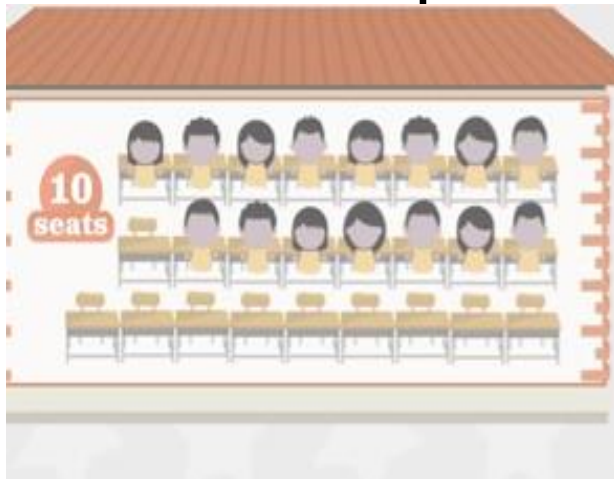
# How do preferences work?

- Ex: A school orders sibling preference (blue) above walkability preference (red). All siblings get in before all walkable students. The sibling group is the “better” preference group in the order.



# How do preferences work?

- Sample order for charter school that opts in to offer the walkability preference
  - Group 1 – siblings of enrolled students
  - Group 2 – walkability eligible students
  - Group 3 – students with no preference



# Preferences Implemented in 2016 Lottery

- **Sibling**
  - Sibling enrolled
  - Sibling accepted
  - Twin accepted
- **Transfer (PCS only)**
  - Same LEA, different campuses
  - Member schools to DC Int'l
- **Children of Staff (PCS only)**
- **Special Education (Bridges only)**
- **Geographic (DCPS only)**
  - In-Boundary
  - Proximity
- **Administrative (MSDC behind the scenes)**
  - Cross-LEA sibling variations for DC Int'l
  - Guarantees for DCPS Early Action PK, Dual Lang



# 2016 Preference Impacts

## Overall Match

Rate  
70%



38% matched w/  
a preference



62% matched w/o  
a preference



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# Analysis and Impact

# How did we analyze potential impact?

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Students living more than a half mile away from their in-boundary DCPS elementary school

Living within a half mile or less of a charter elementary school opting in

2015  
lottery  
apps



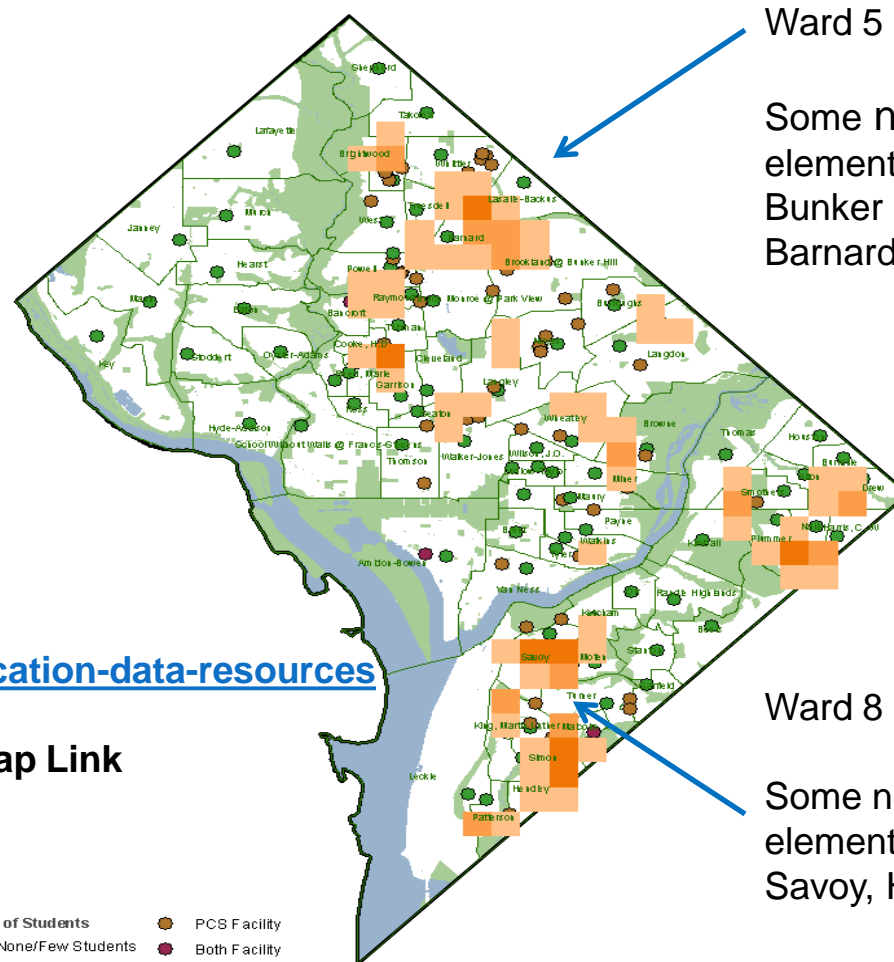
## How did we analyze potential impact?

Assuming ALL elementary charters participated, W5 & W8 would have the greatest number of elementary students qualified for charter walkability preference.

	<b>More than .5m from IB DCPS and has a public charter school within .5m</b>
<b>Ward 1</b>	<b>761 (7%)</b>
<b>Ward 2</b>	<b>30 (0%)</b>
<b>Ward 3</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>
<b>Ward 4</b>	<b>1,713 (16%)</b>
<b>Ward 5</b>	<b>2,921 (27%)</b>
<b>Ward 6</b>	<b>546 (5%)</b>
<b>Ward 7</b>	<b>1,757 (16%)</b>
<b>Ward 8</b>	<b>2,922 (27%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,650 (100%)</b>

# How did we analyze potential impact?

PK3-5 Students with Walkable PCS  
Living Beyond 1/2 mile from In Boundary DCPS ES, SY2015-16



Ward 5

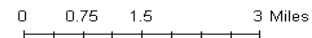
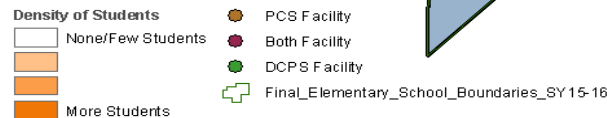
Some nearby DCPS elementary schools:  
Bunker Hill, Langdon,  
Barnard

Ward 8

Some nearby DCPS elementary schools:  
Savoy, Hendley

<http://dme.dc.gov/page/education-data-resources>

Interactive Map Link



# How will lottery results change?

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## The number of new matches is relatively modest.

- Rerunning the 2015 lottery assuming ALL charter elementary schools opted in:
  - **258** number of students that received the walkability preference that had a match different than what they originally received.
- Rerunning the 2015 lottery assuming just a subset of charter elementary schools opted in (28 schools, based on their interest on seeing a more refined analysis):
  - **105** number of students that received the walkability preference that had a match different than what they originally received.

# HANDOUT: Mock Lottery Results

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## Definitions

- **Sector** – Public Charter School or DCPS
- **Ward** – Where the school is located
- **Total Number of different matches** – applicants matched in mock lottery that weren't matched in real 2015 lottery
- **Of total, number of different matches of walkable students** – walkable applicants matched in mock lottery that weren't match in real 2015 lottery
- **Change in total applicant matches to the school** – difference between real 2015 lottery and mock lottery
- **Change in at-risk applicant matches to the school** – difference between real 2015 lottery and mock lottery

**NOTE: A “match” is to any school listed on the My School DC application.**

# Will this have a negative impact on DCPS?

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**No, DCPS did not lose matches based on the mock lottery results that included the preference.**

- Due to the “ripple effect” of the lottery, seats that were vacated at DCPS schools were then filled by other students, so DCPS did not lose matches.

**Mock Results are Not Necessarily Predictive  
Applicant Behavior Could Change  
DME Will Reevaluate in Two Years**

# Will this have a negative impact overall?

Ward of School	PCS Original Matches - no applied walkability preference	PCS Mock* Lottery Matches with Walkability Preference	DCPS Original Matches	DCPS Mock* Lottery Matches with Walkability Preference
1	651	651	995	995
2	*	*	*	*
3	N/A	N/A	546	546
4	788	787	1092	1093
5	2414	2416	785	783
6	977	977	1094	1094
7	1366	1364	552	555
8	1931	1933	502	504
<b>Total</b>	*	*	*	*

*28 charter elementary schools opted in for mock lottery.*

\* Totals for DCPS and public charter schools suppressed to keep school identities anonymous. Ward 2 showed no change between lotteries for either sector.

## **Will this limit options for at-risk students?**

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**We can't perfectly predict how the preference may change applicant behaviors, but we did study the question using the at-risk status of 15-16 lottery applicants.**

**NOTE: My School DC does not know at-risk status at the point of application, and can only determine it after enrollment**

# Will this limit options for at-risk students?

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**Walkability preference had very little effect (<1%) on the outcome of at-risk applicants in the mock lottery using 2015-16 data, overall:**

- **5842** at-risk applicants saw no change in their lottery outcome.
- **65** at-risk applicants received a better, more preferred lottery outcome, but **73** at-risk applicants received a worse, less preferred lottery outcome.





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Concerns, Questions, Feedback

# What questions do you have?

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**We will capture these questions and answer what we can**



# Feedback

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Do you support the walkability preference?

1

Whole-  
hearted  
endorse

2

Minor points  
of contention  
but generally  
support

3

Major  
point(s) of  
contention  
and will not  
support  
unless it is  
resolved

4

Seriously  
disagree  
and would  
never  
support

# Other opportunities for feedback

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**Email us before March 13, 2017:**

- [catherine.peretti@dc.gov](mailto:catherine.peretti@dc.gov) (Executive Director, My School DC)
- [jennifer.comey@dc.gov](mailto:jennifer.comey@dc.gov) (Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the DME)
  
- **We expect legislation to be submitted in late March**
  
- **You can contact your Councilmember with more feedback**
  
- **If legislation is enacted allowing the preference, the deadline for schools to opt in for the 2018 lottery will be August 2017**



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# APPENDIX: How do preferences work?

# How do preferences work?

<http://bit.ly/2m8GTGU>

(watch for 90 seconds on preferences)



My School DC Algorithm Overview - Chinese



My School DC Lottery Overview - Chinese

**For full videos in your language, visit:**  
[www.myschooldc.org/resources/my-school-dc-videos](http://www.myschooldc.org/resources/my-school-dc-videos)