

2021-22 School Selection: Admission Offers from Criteria-Based Schools to 8th Grade SDP Applicants, and Student Responses

Many staff in the Office of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability contributed to collecting, analyzing, and summarizing the information that appears in this brief. Major contributions were made by Theodore Wills, Ph.D., Joy Lesnick, Ph.D., Jonathan Vitale, Ph.D., and Peter Hawes, M.P.P.

Key Findings

- **3,993 District 8th graders submitted at least one fully eligible application to a criteria-based (CB) school**, and 89.6% of those students received at least one admission offer to a CB school. In the previous year, under different conditions, the rate was 88.3%.¹
- **98.5% of District 8th graders who submitted four or five eligible applications to a CB school received at least one offer.** Among students who submitted four or five eligible applications to schools with High Qualification requirements, 97.7% received at least one offer from those same schools. In the previous year, under different conditions, the rate was 98.6%.²

Introduction

This brief continues the series of reports on the School District of Philadelphia's (SDP) 2021-2022 school selection process.³ During the annual school selection process students may apply to attend one of SDP's schools. Students may apply for any grade level, and may apply whether they are already SDP students or are enrolled elsewhere. If a student chooses to participate in the school selection process, they may submit up to five applications. The largest volume of applications is submitted by 8th graders for admission (as 9th graders) to high schools.

¹ This comparison is, necessarily, approximate due to significant changes to the school selection process. More precisely, 88.3% of the students who met the prior year's (different) Minimum Qualifications for CB schools, and submitted at least one application to a CB school, received at least one CB offer.

² See footnote 1. In this case, among students who met the Maximum CB Qualifications, and who submitted at least one CB application, 98.6% received at least one CB offer.

³ For prior reports in this series see: <https://www.philasd.org/research/2022/03/17/2021-22-school-selection-in-sdp/>

Some of these high schools, known as criteria-based (CB) schools, have entry requirements that students must meet in order to gain admission (see Box 2). During 2021-22, any high school applicant who met the criteria was entered into a lottery process;⁴ and every student who met the criteria who did not receive an initial offer from the lottery was placed on a lottery-assigned position on that school's waitlist. Because a student can apply to up to five schools in any combination among neighborhood schools, schools with citywide admission models with no entry criteria, and criteria-based (CB) schools, an individual student might be entered into as many as five distinct lotteries for five separate CB schools. They might receive zero, one, or multiple initial offers through the lottery, and the same is true of offers extended through the waitlist process.

In the weeks following the lottery, students were required to accept or decline offers, which resulted in additional offers being extended to students initially placed on waitlists. In addition, a very small number of offers were extended through other processes (e.g., through appeals).

All students in Philadelphia are able to apply to District schools through the school selection process. However, similar to previous publications, this report focuses on 8th graders who are already SDP students⁵ and who applied to at least one criteria-based school. The analyses summarized here extend the prior report that described initial offers from the lottery to also include offers of admission from the waitlist. It also describes the extent to which students accepted or declined those offers. All analyses are based on data that was current as of March 10, 2022.

⁴ For a detailed description of the 2021-22 lottery process, see pp1-2 of: <https://www.philasd.org/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2022/03/School-Selection-Lottery-Outcomes-2021-22-Research-Brief-March-2022.pdf>

⁵ This represents students for whom we have sufficient data to assess qualifications, and to reliably identify important demographic information. These are the same students who formed the basis of the previous reports in the series.

Box 1. Key Terms

Criteria-Based (CB) Schools and Programs: Schools with entry criteria that students must meet in order to be entered into the admission lottery (see Box 2 for details about these criteria). In addition, there are two schools with neighborhood attendance boundaries that also have embedded programs with entry criteria. Some of these schools may have additional requirements beyond those for grades and attendance.

Eligible Applicant: A student who applies to a Criteria-Based school or program, and meets all of the criteria for that specific school or program. A student might be an *applicant*, but not an *eligible applicant* if they do not meet one or more criteria.

Lottery Process: Eligible applicants to a CB school or program were placed in a lottery process. At some schools, eligible applicants from any of six priority zip codes were given offers. At all CB schools, remaining eligible applicants who were ELs or had IEPs were then placed into lotteries for a limited number of reserved seats and either received an offer or were placed into the main lottery phase. This main lottery phase followed, with all remaining eligible applicants either receiving a direct offer of admission or placement in a random position on that school's waitlist (see footnote 2 for reference to additional details on the lottery process).

Waitlist Process: After the lottery process, students had a period of two weeks to accept or decline offers received directly from the lottery. After this window, any CB school that had not filled their target number of seats extended additional offers to students on the waitlist, in the order that those students were placed on the waitlist. This process continued, with additional offers being extended as students moved and available seats were reassessed. The phase officially closed as of 3/8/2022; though some small additional student movement is expected to occur after this date.

Other Procedures: In 21 cases (0.2% of all offers), a student was extended an offer after an appeals process, and/or a reevaluation of their eligibility.

Research Questions

This brief extends our previous reports,⁶ and explores six sets of related research questions about District 8th graders who participated in the 2021-22 School Selection Lottery:

1. RQ1: How many applications did individual District students submit to criteria-based schools? How did the number of eligible applications to criteria-based schools relate to the number of admission offers those students received through the lottery and/or waitlist processes?
2. RQ2: For each criteria-based high school and program, (a) how many District 8th graders were placed into the lottery, and (b) how many received initial offers through the lottery process, or subsequently through the waitlist process, and/or through other procedures?
3. RQ3: Were lottery and waitlist offers assigned to eligible applications from members of different student groups proportionally? Were offers proportional for groups of schools with different qualification criteria?
4. RQ4: What percentage of eligible applicants received at least one offer to attend a criteria-based school? How does that percentage vary by student group, and by qualification levels of schools?
5. RQ5: Among 8th grade students who attended Criteria-Based middle-high schools (5 schools), how many 8th grade students received a lottery or waitlist offer to remain at the same site for 9th grade? How did this compare with the previous year?
6. RQ6: How frequently did students accept admission offers extended through the lottery or through the waitlist process?

⁶ Previous reports can be found here: <https://www.philasd.org/research/category/school-selection/>

Box 2. Tiered Qualification Levels for 2021-2022

All criteria-based schools had an eligibility requirement of 95 percent attendance or better; and all had minimum, but varied, requirements for grades in the four core subject areas (English, math, science and social studies). Three qualification tiers (High, Medium, and Minimum) were established to correspond with groups of schools with the same course grade requirements.

This is a change from previous years, and is detailed in the [2021-22 School Selection: 8th Grade Student Qualifications and Applications to 9th Grade](#) research brief.

High Qualifications: Students must have a grade of A or B in each of the four core content areas. There were 5 schools with this requirement. These same five schools also required students to meet a minimum threshold on a timed Writing Sample (WS), and one also required applicants to complete Algebra I prior to enrollment. These additional considerations result in the following sub-tiers:

High-17: High Qualifications, plus a minimum score of 17 on the WS (rounded)

High-22: High Qualifications, plus a minimum score of 22 on the WS (rounded)

High-22 Algebra: Meets requirements for High-22, and is on track to complete Algebra I by the end of 8th grade

Medium Qualifications: Students must have a grade of A or B in three of the four core content areas, and a grade of A, B, or C in the fourth. There were five schools with this requirement.

Minimum Qualifications: Students must have a grade of A, B, or C in the four core content areas. There were nine schools with this requirement (as well as specialty programs embedded within schools with neighborhood attendance boundaries).

These qualification levels are hierarchical, such that a student who meets the High requirements would, by definition, also meet the Medium and Minimum requirements.

Some schools had additional requirements reflecting their unique models. For example, a project portfolio, or an audition for a specialized performing arts program.

See Appendix A for a list of Criteria-Based schools and programs, and their respective requirements.

Findings

RQ1: How many applications did individual District students submit to criteria-based schools? How did the number of eligible applications to criteria-based schools relate to the number of admission offers those students received through the lottery and/or waitlist processes?

In order to be placed into a school’s lottery, an applicant had to meet all of that school’s eligibility requirements (see Box 2 for details of qualification levels, and see Appendix A for school-by-school requirements). Any application that resulted in entry to a lottery is an example of a *fully eligible* (or, interchangeably, *eligible*) application.

Students were able to apply to as many as five schools or programs through the School Selection Process. Those schools and programs could be criteria-based, have citywide admissions models without entry criteria, be catchment schools that lie outside the student’s designated catchment, or any combination of these. As a consequence, there was considerable variation in the number of applications, and eligible applications, that individual students submitted to CB schools and programs.

In many cases, District students who did not meet eligibility requirements submitted applications to CB schools. When looking at applications, whether eligible or not, we find that 5,697 students submitted at least one CB application (Table 1). Of those students, 3,577 (62.8%) received at least one CB lottery or waitlist offer.

Table 1. Student outcomes for CB schools: Number of CB offers, by number of applications submitted to CB schools (whether those applications met eligibility requirements or not).

Any Application (Eligible or not) to Any Criteria-Based School	Offers to attend Any Criteria-Based School						Number Receiving at Least One CB Offer	Percent Receiving at Least One CB Offer	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5			
1	880	327	0	0	0	0	327	27.1%	1,207
2	595	339	188	0	0	0	527	47.0%	1,122
3	375	297	269	108	0	0	674	64.3%	1,049
4	188	232	313	206	68	0	819	81.3%	1,007
5	82	192	353	416	219	50	1,230	93.8%	1,312
Total	2,120	1,387	1,123	730	287	50	3,577	62.8%	5,697

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

When a student submitted an application that met the CB school’s eligibility requirements, that student was then placed into that school’s lottery phase. If a student was entered into multiple lotteries, those lotteries were run independently of one another, so if a student submitted the maximum of five eligible CB applications, that student could receive anywhere from zero to five distinct offers of admission from the lottery; and if they did not receive a lottery offer would be placed on five waitlists. The consequence of these independent lotteries is that each additional eligible CB application represents a meaningful increase in the statistical likelihood of receiving at least one initial offer (and, if an initial offer was not received, submitting more eligible CB applications also resulted in a meaningful increase in the statistical likelihood of receiving at least one favorable position on a waitlist).

Consistent with statistical expectations, students who submitted eligible CB applications were very likely to receive at least one CB offer; and this was especially true when multiple eligible applications were submitted (Table 2). Of the students who submitted one or more eligible CB applications, but received zero offers (416 total), the large majority submitted only one such application (324, or 77.9%). Only one student submitted five eligible applications to CB schools, but did not receive an offer through either the lottery or the waitlist process, and an additional 17 students submitted four eligible CB applications without receiving an offer (these numbers appear in the second column in Table 2). These students were exceptions to the rule; a total of 1,166 students submitted either four eligible applications (636 students) or five eligible applications (530) and of those, 1,148 (98.5%) received at least one CB offer.

Table 2. Student outcomes for CB schools: Number of CB offers, by number of eligible applications submitted to CB schools.

Eligible Applications to Any Criteria-Based School	Offers to attend Any Criteria-Based School						Number Receiving at Least One CB Offer	Percent Receiving at Least One CB Offer	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5			
1	324	840	0	0	0	0	840	72.2%	1,164
2	48	331	541	0	0	0	872	94.8%	920
3	26	114	295	308	0	0	717	96.5%	743
4	17	65	169	235	150	0	619	97.3%	636
5	1	37	118	187	137	50	529	99.8%	530
Total	416	1,387	1,123	730	287	50	3,577	89.6%	3,993

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

Similarly, at the five schools with High Qualification requirements, students who submitted multiple eligible applications were likely to receive an admission offer to attend one of those five schools (Table 3). Of the students who submitted four (193) or five (23) eligible applications, all but five received at least one offer (97.7%).

Table 3. Student outcomes for CB schools with High Qualification requirements: Number of High Qualification CB offers, by number of eligible applications submitted to High Qualification CB schools.

Eligible Applications to High Qualification Schools	Offers to attend High Qualification Schools						Number Receiving at Least One High Qualification Offer	Percent Receiving at Least One High Qualification Offer	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5			
1	236	383	0	0	0	0	383	61.9%	619
2	93	276	205	0	0	0	481	83.8%	574
3	41	139	162	85	0	0	386	90.4%	427
4	4	47	68	56	18	0	189	97.9%	193
5	1	3	7	5	5	2	22	95.7%	23
Total	375	848	442	146	23	2	1,461	79.6%	1,836

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

RQ2: For each Criteria-Based high school and program, (a) how many District 8th graders were placed into the lottery, and (b) how many received initial offers through the lottery, or subsequent offers through the waitlist process, and/or through other procedures?

Overall, there were 3,993 students who submitted at least one fully eligible application to a criteria-based school or program; of those, 3,577 (89.6%) received at least one offer of admission to a CB school or program (Table 4).⁷ Each of these students received at least one offer either directly from the lottery process, from the waitlist phase, and/or from the small number of offers from special accommodations.

⁷ See also Figure 1 in the Conclusions section of the [2021-22 School Selection: 8th Grade Student Qualifications and Applications to 9th Grade](#) research brief for this information.

Table 4. Number of eligible CB applicants, and number of those eligible CB applicants who received at least one CB admission offer from any phase.

	Number of Applicants Fully Eligible for at Least One CB Lottery	Number of Eligible Applicants Receiving at Least One Offer from Any Source	Percent of Eligible Applicants Receiving at Least One Offer from Any Source
All District 8 th Graders (Unique Applicants)	3,993	3,577	89.6%

Table Note: There were 8,770 District 8th Graders as of the close of the application window on November 21, 2022. Of those students, 5,697 submitted at least one application to a Criteria-Based school (65%) regardless of their qualification level. More details about student qualifications and applications can be found in the Research Brief titled: *2021-22 School Selection: 8th Grade Student Qualifications and Applications to 9th Grade* (link in footnote 7).

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

In many cases, the 3,993 students who submitted at least one fully eligible CB school application submitted two or more (Table 5). Collectively, these students submitted a total of 10,427 eligible applications to criteria-based schools and programs.

Table 5. Number of CB Applications (Out of a Maximum of 5) Submitted by Individual Students

Eligible Applications to Any Criteria-Based School	Number of CB Applicants Who Submitted This Number of Eligible CB Applications	Number of Eligible CB Applications Submitted by These Students	Percent of Eligible CB Applicants Who Submitted This Number of Eligible CB Applications
1	1,164	1,164	29.2%
2	920	1,840	23.0%
3	743	2,229	18.6%
4	636	2,544	15.9%
5	530	2,650	13.3%
Total	3,993	10,427	100.0%

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

When we look at the applications and offers at each school, there is only one application per student, so in this context the number of *applications* and the number of *applicants* are identical and interchangeable (Table 6).⁸ Of the 10,427 eligible applications, 6,497 (62.3%) resulted in a direct lottery offer, an additional 724 (6.9%) resulted in an offer during the waitlist phase, for a total of

⁸ Recall that the lotteries were conducted centrally by the District. However, in this report we talk about offers extended by a school to a student for clarity. The offers made by schools to students result from the centrally conducted lottery.

69.3% applications receiving an offer of either type. In addition, 21 students submitted an application (0.2%) that resulted in an offer through other procedures.

The percent of eligible applicants who received an offer from any process varied across schools; from a minimum of 32.7% of eligible applicants receiving an offer at Julia R. Masterman School to a maximum of 100% of eligible applicants receiving an initial offer at seven different schools (Table 5).⁹

Table 6. School-level summaries of eligible 8th grade District applications and offers.

Criteria-Based School or Program	Number of Applications Fully Eligible for Lottery	Number of Fully Eligible Applications Receiving an Offer via Lottery	Number of Fully Eligible Applications Receiving an Offer via Waitlist	Percent of Fully Eligible Applications Receiving an Offer via Lottery or Waitlist	Number of Additional Offers Extended via Other Procedures
Academy at Palumbo*	980	609	0	62.1%	0
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	160	159	1	100.0%	7
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	852	515	0	60.4%	0
Central High School*	1,129	611	40	57.7%	2
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	213	162	22	86.4%	1
Franklin Learning Center	649	392	173	87.1%	1
George Washington High School	110	88	0	80.0%	0
Girard Academic Music Program	102	102	0	100.0%	6
Hill-Freedman World Academy	339	242	16	76.1%	0
Julia R. Masterman School*	437	111	32	32.7%	0
Lankenau High School	284	277	7	100.0%	0
Motivation High School	204	129	72	98.5%	0

⁹ Schools with very high acceptance rates might have additional criteria that would restrict the number of fully eligible applicants, and/or a low number of fully eligible applicants compared with the number of offers required to fill the projected capacity for Fall 2022.

Criteria-Based School or Program	Number of Applications Fully Eligible for Lottery	Number of Fully Eligible Applications Receiving an Offer via Lottery	Number of Fully Eligible Applications Receiving an Offer via Waitlist	Percent of Fully Eligible Applications Receiving an Offer via Lottery or Waitlist	Number of Additional Offers Extended via Other Procedures
Northeast High School	1,629	840	0	51.6%	0
Parkway Center City Middle College	537	291	63	65.9%	0
Parkway Northwest High School	284	198	83	98.9%	0
Parkway West High School	166	151	15	100.0%	1
Philadelphia High School for Girls	686	677	9	100.0%	0
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	383	146	126	71.0%	2
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	189	177	12	100.0%	0
Walter B. Saul High School	341	288	53	100.0%	1
William W. Bodine High School	753	332	0	44.1%	0
All District 8 th Graders (Total Applications)	10,427	6,497	724	69.3%	21

*These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see Box 1 or footnote 2 for more information about priority zip codes). These students are included in the *Fully Eligible for Lottery* totals for those schools.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

RQ3: Were lottery and waitlist offers assigned to eligible applications from members of different student groups proportionally? Were offers proportional for groups of schools with different qualification criteria?

In a previous brief, analyses confirmed that the lottery process was random, as intended. Offers from this process were extended proportionally to eligible students of all groups. A similar analysis is not feasible for waitlist offers, as these are interconnected with and dependent on processes which are not random. For example, a student's likelihood of receiving a waitlist offer depends not only on whether the lottery process randomly assigned their position, but also on the interconnected decisions made by other students at other schools. As an example, if a student on multiple waitlists accepts a waitlist offer, then they are withdrawn from the other waitlists, eliminating the possibility of accepting those other offers. Alternatively, a student placed first on the waitlist at one school might not receive an offer if many students accept lottery offers from the same school, whereas a student placed quite deeply on the waitlist at another school might ultimately be offered admission. This means that differences in which student groups receive more (or fewer) waitlist offers can simply be driven by which schools those students disproportionately apply to. If students of a particular student group apply disproportionately to schools with especially high (or low) waitlist activity, then aggregated results for those student groups may reflect differences in those application patterns, and/or differences in student responses to lottery offers at those (and other) schools.

While we cannot evaluate the randomness of waitlist placement, we can provide information about the final outcomes, in terms of admission offers, for different student groups submitting applications to the five categories of CB schools with requirements (Tables 7 through 11 summarize offers from applications by student group to Minimum, Medium, High-17, High-22, and High-22 Algebra requirement schools; see Box 2). As noted, these outcomes represent the combined effects of multiple, complex processes which cannot be disentangled; but the final results may provide insight into the end results of that interaction.

At schools with Minimum Qualification requirements, applications from Black/African American students, female students, and special education students received a slightly higher proportion of the admission offers compared to their peers.

At schools with Minimum Qualification requirements, the percent of eligible applications that resulted in an admission offer was largely consistent across student groups, with some exceptions (Table 7). For most student groups, the percent was within 10 percentage points of the overall rate of 74.2%. Exceptions to this include rates for students identifying as Asian (62.5% of applications from Asian students to a school with Minimum Qualification requirements received an offer of admission), and students with IEPs (84.3% of applications from students with IEPs to a school with Minimum Qualification requirements received an offer of admission).

Table 7. Distributions of lottery and waitlist offers to District 8th grade students, disaggregated by student groups, at schools with Minimum (A's, B's and C's) Qualification requirements.

	Eligible Applications	Number of Lottery Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Lottery Offer	Number of Waitlist Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Waitlist Offer	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Any Offer**
Race/Ethnicity						
Asian	936	546	58.3%	39	4.2%	62.5%
Black/African American	2,429	1,747	71.9%	267	11.0%	82.9%
Hispanic/Latinx	932	601	64.5%	74	7.9%	72.4%
Multi Racial/Other*	313	206	65.8%	20	6.4%	72.2%
White	835	514	61.6%	28	3.4%	64.9%
Gender						
Female	3,177	2,233	70.3%	223	7.0%	77.3%
Male	2,268	1,381	60.9%	205	9.0%	69.9%
EL Status						
Non-EL	4,763	3,173	66.6%	381	8.0%	74.6%
EL	682	441	64.7%	47	6.9%	71.6%
Receiving Special Education Services						
Non-Special Education	4,833	3,156	65.3%	370	7.7%	73.0%
Special Education	612	458	74.8%	58	9.5%	84.3%
Overall						
Total	5,445	3,614	66.4%	428	7.9%	74.2%

How to read this table: This table provides information about eligible applications to criteria-based (CB) schools and programs, and the percent that resulted in lottery and waitlist offers, disaggregated by a variety of student groups. The *Eligible Applications* column indicates the number of applications (not unique applicants), that were submitted by members of the indicated student group, and that met the school's eligibility requirements. The *Number of Lottery Offers* and *Number of Waitlist Offers* columns indicate the number of the eligible applications that resulted in those types of offers. Similarly, the *Percent of...* columns convert these numbers into percentages of eligible applications receiving each type of offer, and the final column (*... Any Offer*) combines the percentages associated with lottery and waitlist offers.

* Includes students identifying as American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

** Excludes offers not received via lottery or waitlist.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

At schools with Medium Qualification requirements, more than 83% of eligible applications received an offer, regardless of student group

At schools with Medium Qualification requirements, the percent of eligible applications that resulted in an admission offer was largely consistent across student groups (Table 8). For all student groups, the percent was within 8 percentage points of the overall rate of 86.6%.

Table 8. Distributions of initial offers to District 8th grade students, disaggregated by student groups, at schools with Medium (A's, B's and one C) Qualification requirements.

	Eligible Applications	Number of Lottery Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Lottery Offer	Number of Waitlist Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Waitlist Offer	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Any Offer**
Race/Ethnicity						
Asian	157	103	65.6%	32	20.4%	86.0%
Black/African American	323	246	76.2%	36	11.1%	87.3%
Hispanic/Latinx	120	86	71.7%	22	18.3%	90.0%
Multi Racial/Other*	83	58	69.9%	11	13.3%	83.1%
White	364	253	69.5%	60	16.5%	86.0%
Gender						
Female	632	468	74.1%	80	12.7%	86.7%
Male	415	278	67.0%	81	19.5%	86.5%
EL Status						
Non-EL	993	697	70.2%	159	16.0%	86.2%
EL	54	49	90.7%	2	3.7%	94.4%
Receiving Special Education Services						
Non-Special Education	978	690	70.6%	155	15.8%	86.4%
Special Education	69	56	81.2%	6	8.7%	89.9%
Overall						
Total	1,047	746	71.3%	161	15.4%	86.6%

How to read this table: This table provides information about eligible applications to criteria-based (CB) schools and programs, and the percent that resulted in lottery and waitlist offers, disaggregated by a variety of student groups. The *Eligible Applications* column indicates the number of applications (not unique applicants), that were submitted by members of the indicated student group, and that met the school's eligibility requirements. The *Number of Lottery Offers* and *Number of Waitlist Offers* columns indicate the number of the eligible applications that resulted in those types of offers. Similarly, the *Percent of...* columns convert these numbers into percentages of eligible applications receiving each type of offer, and the final column (*... Any Offer*) combines the percentages associated with lottery and waitlist offers.

* Includes students identifying as American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

** Excludes offers not received via lottery or waitlist.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

At schools with High Qualification requirements, students eligible for reserved-seat lotteries (ELs and students with IEPs) received offers at a higher rate than their peers.

Schools with High Qualification requirements were further characterized as High-17, High-22, or High-22 Algebra (see Box 2). Across these schools, the percent of eligible applications that resulted in an admission offer was largely consistent across student groups (Tables 9 through 11). For all of these qualification levels, most student groups had rates that were within 5 percentage points of the overall rates for each respective qualification level. Some exceptions to this pattern occurred at the High-22 (Central) and High-22 Algebra (Masterman) schools. At both of these schools, the number of eligible applicants from ELs, students with IEPs, and those identifying as either Black/African American or Hispanic/Latinx were smaller than for other student groups; but for these same groups the percent of eligible applications resulting in an offer was somewhat higher.

Table 9. Distributions of initial offers to District 8th grade students, disaggregated by student groups, at schools with High (A's and B's) Qualification requirements and minimum Writing Sample score of 17 (Academy at Palumbo, Carver, and Parkway Center City).*

	Eligible Applications	Number of Lottery Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Lottery Offer	Number of Waitlist Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Waitlist Offer	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Any Offer***
Race/Ethnicity						
Asian	659	378	57.4%	13	2.0%	59.3%
Black/African American	698	433	62.0%	24	3.4%	65.5%
Hispanic/Latinx	349	217	62.2%	14	4.0%	66.2%
Multi Racial/Other**	172	103	59.9%	4	2.3%	62.2%
White	491	284	57.8%	8	1.6%	59.5%
Gender						
Female	1,249	747	59.8%	35	2.8%	62.6%
Male	1,120	668	59.6%	28	2.5%	62.1%
EL Status						
Non-EL	2,194	1,304	59.4%	58	2.6%	62.1%
EL	175	111	63.4%	5	2.9%	66.3%
Receiving Special Education Services						
Non-Special Education	2,303	1,372	59.6%	62	2.7%	62.3%
Special Education	66	43	65.2%	1	1.5%	66.7%
Overall						
Total	2,369	1,415	59.7%	63	2.7%	62.4%

How to read this table: This table provides information about eligible applications to criteria-based (CB) schools and programs, and the percent that resulted in lottery and waitlist offers, disaggregated by a variety of student groups. The *Eligible Applications* column indicates the number of applications (not unique applicants), that were submitted by members of the indicated student group, and that met the school's eligibility requirements. The *Number of Lottery Offers* and *Number of Waitlist Offers* columns indicate the number of the eligible applications that resulted in those types of offers. Similarly, the *Percent of...* columns convert these numbers into percentages of eligible applications receiving each type of offer, and the final column (*... Any Offer*) combines the percentages associated with lottery and waitlist offers.

* Academy at Palumbo and Carver admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see Box 1 or footnote 2 for more information about priority zip codes). These students are included in the *Fully Eligible Applicants* totals for those schools.

** Includes students identifying as American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

*** Excludes offers not received via lottery or waitlist.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

Table 10. Distributions of initial offers to District 8th grade students, disaggregated by student groups, at school with High (A's and B's) Qualification requirements and minimum Writing Sample score of 22 (Central High School).*

	Eligible Applications	Number of Lottery Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Lottery Offer	Number of Waitlist Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Waitlist Offer	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Any Offer***
Race/Ethnicity						
Asian	365	201	55.1%	14	3.8%	58.9%
Black/African American	248	141	56.9%	5	2.0%	58.9%
Hispanic/Latinx	141	77	54.6%	7	5.0%	59.6%
Multi Racial/Other**	77	38	49.4%	1	1.3%	50.6%
White	298	154	51.7%	13	4.4%	56.0%
Gender						
Female	651	354	54.4%	17	2.6%	57.0%
Male	478	257	53.8%	23	4.8%	58.6%
EL Status						
Non-EL	1,068	560	52.4%	38	3.6%	56.0%
EL	61	51	83.6%	2	3.3%	86.9%
Receiving Special Education Services						
Non-Special Education	1,115	597	53.5%	40	3.6%	57.1%
Special Education	14	14	100.0%	0	0.0%	100.0%
Overall						
Total	1,129	611	54.1%	40	3.5%	57.7%

How to read this table: This table provides information about eligible applications to criteria-based (CB) schools and programs, and the percent that resulted in lottery and waitlist offers, disaggregated by a variety of student groups. The *Eligible Applications* column indicates the number of applications (not unique applicants), that were submitted by members of the indicated student group, and that met the school's eligibility requirements. The *Number of Lottery Offers* and *Number of Waitlist Offers* columns indicate the number of the eligible applications that resulted in those types of offers. Similarly, the *Percent of...* columns convert these numbers into percentages of eligible applications receiving each type of offer, and the final column (*... Any Offer*) combines the percentages associated with lottery and waitlist offers.

* This school admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see Box 1 or footnote 2 for more information about priority zip codes). These students are included in the *Fully Eligible Applicants* totals for those schools.

** Includes students identifying as American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

*** Excludes offers not received via lottery or waitlist.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

Table 11. Distributions of initial offers to District 8th grade students, disaggregated by student groups, at school with High (A's and B's) Qualification requirements, minimum Writing Sample score of 22, and Algebra I requirement (Masterman).*

	Eligible Applications	Number of Lottery Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Lottery Offer	Number of Waitlist Offers	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Waitlist Offer	Percent of Eligible Applications Resulting in Any Offer***
Race/Ethnicity						
Asian	169	46	27.2%	10	5.9%	33.1%
Black/African American	51	15	29.4%	5	9.8%	39.2%
Hispanic/Latinx	33	12	36.4%	1	3.0%	39.4%
Multi Racial/Other**	31	6	19.4%	5	16.1%	35.5%
White	153	32	20.9%	11	7.2%	28.1%
Gender						
Female	236	61	25.8%	23	9.7%	35.6%
Male	201	50	24.9%	9	4.5%	29.4%
EL Status						
Non-EL	424	102	24.1%	32	7.5%	31.6%
EL	13	9	69.2%	0	0.0%	69.2%
Receiving Special Education Services						
Non-Special Education	433	108	24.9%	32	7.4%	32.3%
Special Education	4	3	75.0%	0	0.0%	75.0%
Overall						
Total	437	111	25.4%	32	7.3%	32.7%

How to read this table: This table provides information about eligible applications to criteria-based (CB) schools and programs, and the percent that resulted in lottery and waitlist offers, disaggregated by a variety of student groups. The *Eligible Applications* column indicates the number of applications (not unique applicants), that were submitted by members of the indicated student group, and that met the school's eligibility requirements. The *Number of Lottery Offers* and *Number of Waitlist Offers* columns indicate the number of the eligible applications that resulted in those types of offers. Similarly, the *Percent of...* columns convert these numbers into percentages of eligible applications receiving each type of offer, and the final column (*... Any Offer*) combines the percentages associated with lottery and waitlist offers.

* This school admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see Box 1 or footnote 2 for more information about priority zip codes). These students are included in the *Fully Eligible Applicants* totals for those schools.

** Includes students identifying as American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

*** Excludes offers not received via lottery or waitlist.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

RQ4: What percent of eligible applicants received at least one offer to attend a criteria-based school? How did that percent vary by student group, and by qualification levels of schools?

Students are able to submit applications to as many as five schools. For this reason, there is a distinction between examining the likelihood that a specific application will lead to an admission offer and examining whether an applicant will receive at least one admission offer independent of the number of applications they submitted.

Overall, 89.6% of District 8th graders who submitted at least one eligible application to a CB school received at least one CB offer via the lottery or waitlist (Table 12). Although there were many changes to the school selection process in 2021-22,¹⁰ similar to findings from previous years, the more qualified a student was, the more likely they were to receive at least one offer.

Table 12. Number and percent of eligible CB applicants who received at least one admission offer from any CB school.

Students' Highest Qualification Level	Number of Eligible CB Applicants	Number of Eligible CB Applicants who Received no CB Offers	Number of Eligible CB Applicants who Received 1 or More CB Offers*	Percent of Eligible Applicants in Each Qualification Level Receiving 1 or More CB Offers*
High-22 Algebra Qualifications	687	38	649	94.5%
High-22 Qualifications	575	26	549	95.5%
High-17 Qualifications	796	72	724	91.0%
Medium Qualifications	1,198	170	1,028	85.8%
Minimum Qualifications	617	98	519	84.1%
Qualified Via Review**	120	12	108	90.0%
Total	3,993	416	3,577	89.6%

* Includes offers not received via lottery or waitlist.

** These students' available, electronic, administrative data did not allow them to be identified as qualified at any level, but were found to be eligible through other processes.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

¹⁰ For a detailed description of changes to the 2021-22 school selection process, see pp1-2 of: <https://www.philasd.org/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2022/03/School-Selection-Qualifications-and-Applications-2021-22-Research-Brief-March-2022.pdf>

Among students who submitted an eligible application to one or more of the five schools with High Qualification requirements, 79.6% received a lottery or waitlist offer to attend one of those schools (Table 13).

Table 13. Number and percent of eligible CB applicants who received at least one admission offer from a High Qualification CB school.

Students' Highest Qualification Level	Number of Eligible High Qualification CB School Applicants	Number of Eligible Applicants who Received no High Qualification CB School Offers	Number of Eligible Applicants who Received 1 or More High Qualification CB School Offers*	Percent of Eligible Applicants in Each Qualification Level Receiving 1 or More High Qualification CB School Offers*
High-22 Algebra Qualifications	677	106	571	84.3%
High-22 Qualifications	558	127	431	77.2%
High-17 Qualifications	528	119	409	77.5%
Qualified Via Review**	73	23	50	68.5%
Total	1,836	375	1,461	79.6%

* Includes offers not received via lottery or waitlist.

** These students' available, electronic, administrative data did not allow them to be identified as qualified at any level, but were found to be eligible through other processes.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

The following figures display students who met, but did not exceed, a specific qualification level, and who submitted at least one fully eligible application to at least one CB school of any qualification level (Figures 1 through 5). In each case, the stacked bars display the percent of those eligible applicants, belonging to the indicated student group, who received (blue), or did not receive (green) at least one CB offer by means of the lottery or the waitlist. In addition, the yellow reference line indicates the overall percent who received at least one CB offer.

In general, students of different races/ethnicities received at least one CB offer at similar rates, with most offer percentages falling within five percentage points of the overall rate. In addition, students meeting higher qualification levels were more likely to receive one or more such offers. In those cases where there are apparent differences across groups, they are based on small samples and should be interpreted with caution. For example, among applicants who met only the Minimum Qualification level (Figure 5), students who are Asian had a lower offer rate than their peers, but this finding is based on only 23 students.

Figure 1. Percent of eligible CB applicants, with best qualification level of High-22 Algebra, who received at least one admission offer to attend a CB school, by race/ethnicity.

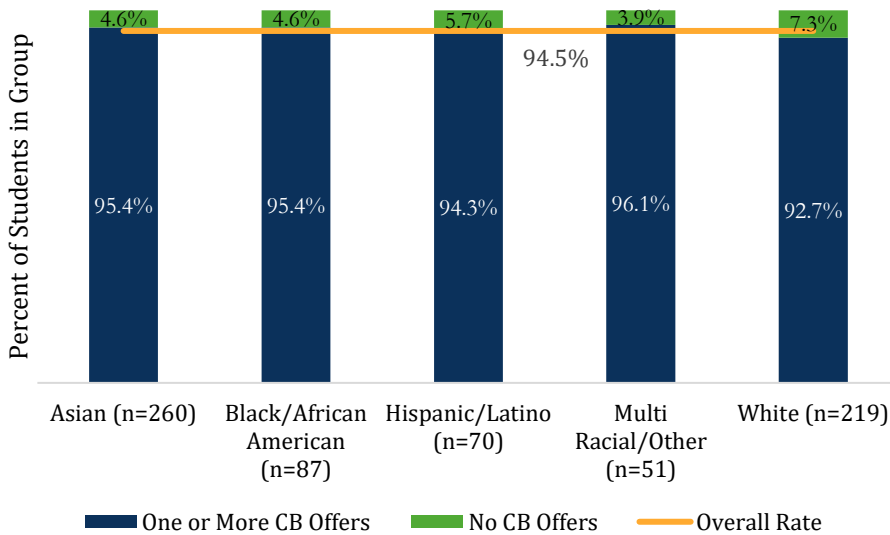


Figure 2. Percent of eligible CB applicants, with best qualification level of High-22, who received at least one admission offer to attend a CB school, by race/ethnicity.

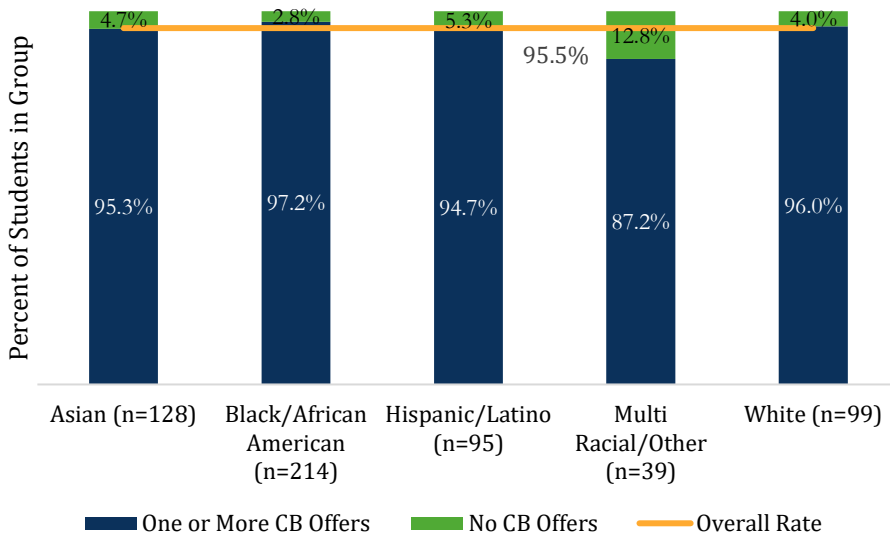


Figure 3. Percent of eligible CB applicants, with best qualification level of High-17, who received at least one admission offer to attend a CB school, by race/ethnicity.

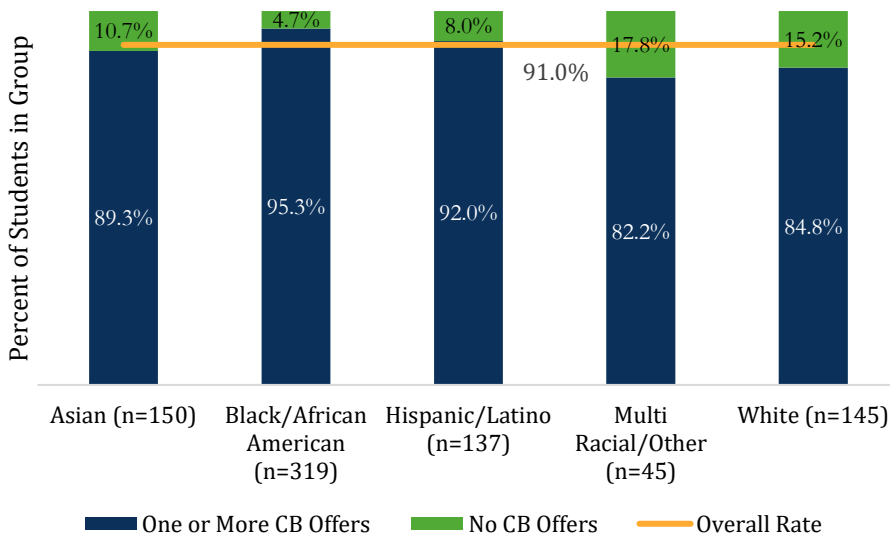


Figure 4. Percent of eligible CB applicants, with best qualification level of Medium, who received at least one admission offer to attend a CB school, by race/ethnicity.

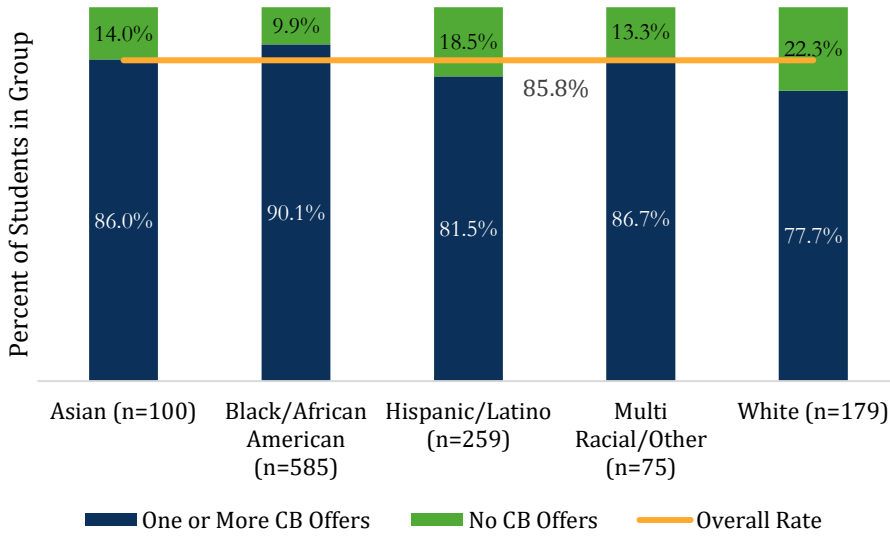
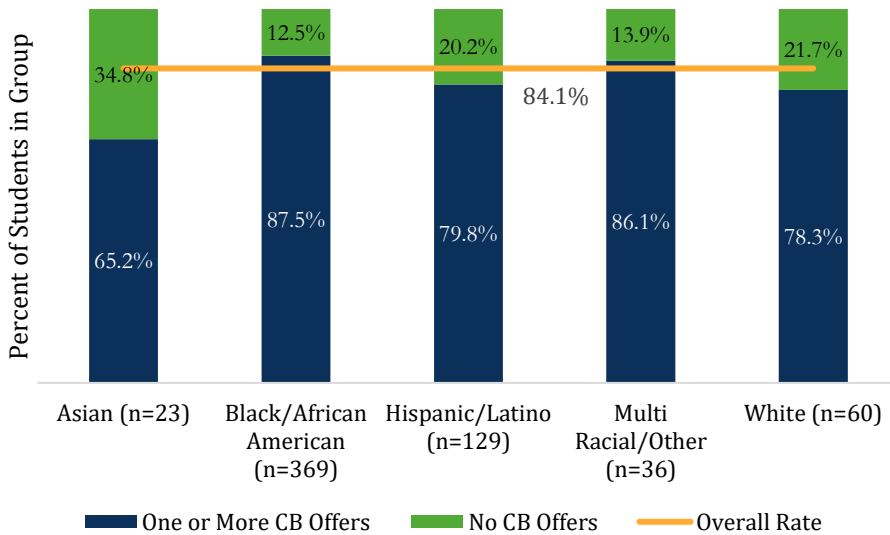
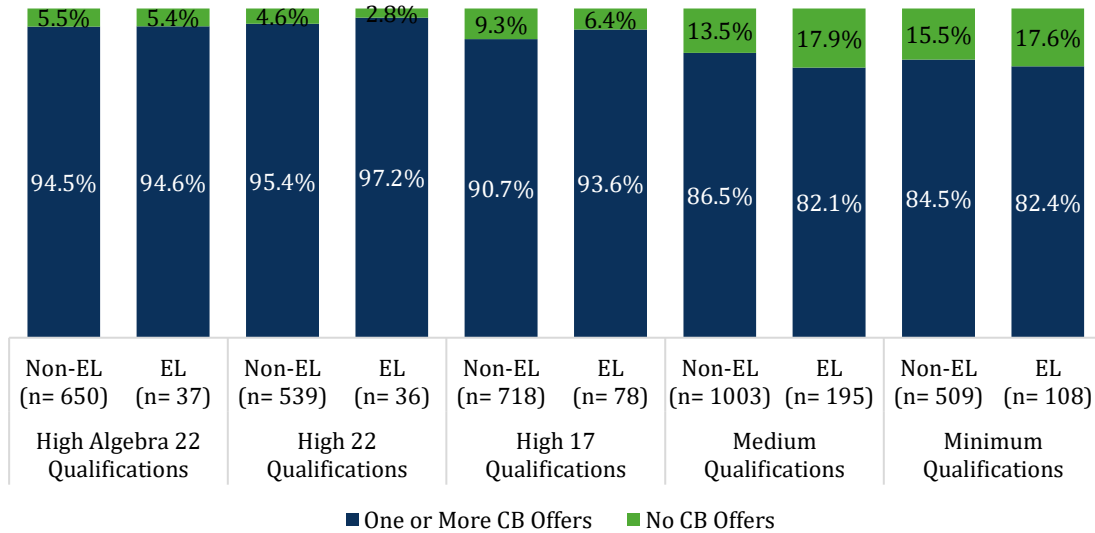


Figure 5. Percent of eligible CB applicants, with best qualification level of Minimum, who received at least one admission offer to attend a CB school, by race/ethnicity.



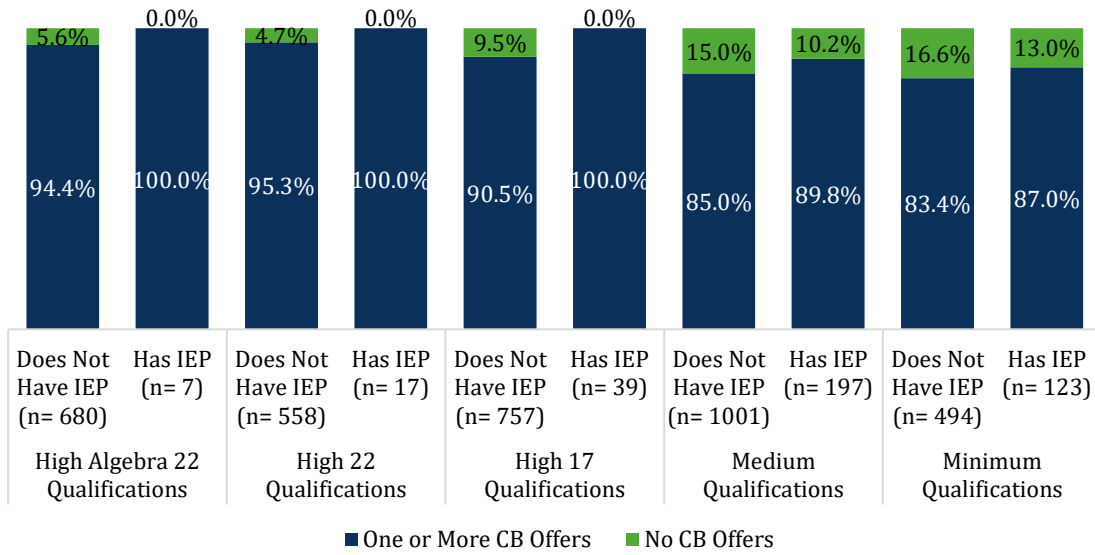
There were small differences between English Learners (ELs) and non-ELs in terms of the percent of eligible applicants who received at least one CB offer (Figure 6). Among students meeting any High Qualification level, ELs were as likely, or more likely, to receive a CB offer (ranging from zero to three percentage points) compared with non-ELs. However, among students meeting only the Minimum or Medium Qualification levels, the pattern is reversed, with a smaller percentage of ELs receiving an offer compared with Non-ELs (differences of two and three percentage points, respectively).

Figure 6. Percent of eligible CB applicants who received at least one admission offer to attend a CB school, by best qualification level, and by EL status.



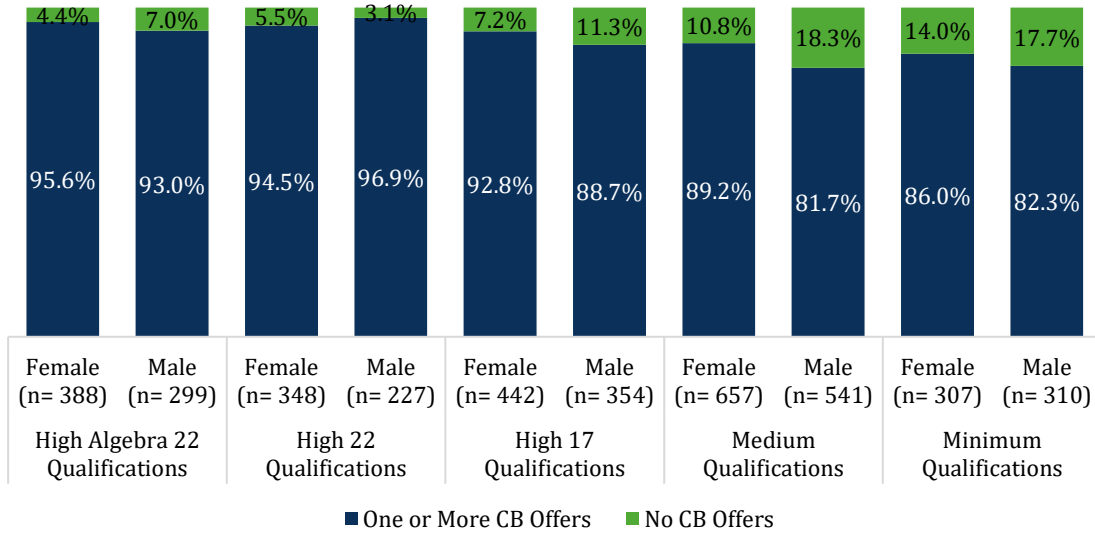
Across qualification levels, there was considerable variation in CB offers between students with and without IEPs (Figure 7). All eligible applicants with IEPs who met a High Qualification level received at least one CB offer—though these students were small in number compared with their similarly-qualified peers without IEPs. Among students meeting only the Minimum or Medium Qualification levels, a higher percentage of students with IEPs received at least one CB offer compared with students without IEPs (a difference of four percentage points in both cases).

Figure 7. Percent of eligible CB applicants who received at least one admission offer to attend a CB school, by best qualification level, and by IEP status.



With the exception of students meeting the High 22 Qualification level, a higher percentage of students who identify as female received a CB offer than for students who identify as male (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Percent of eligible CB applicants who received at least one admission offer to attend a CB school, by best qualification level, and by gender.



RQ5: Among 8th grade students who attended Criteria-Based middle-high schools (5 schools), how many 8th grade students received a lottery or waitlist offer to remain at the same site for 9th grade? How did this compare with the previous year?

There are five Criteria-Based middle-high schools that serve both 8th and 9th grades (Table 14). At these schools, 323 students submitted eligible applications to continue at the same site, and 180 of those (57.3%) received an offer from either the lottery or the waitlist process.

Table 14. Continuing applicants at Criteria-Based Middle-High Schools.

School	Number of Eligible Continuing Applicants	Number of Lottery Offers Extended to Eligible Continuing Applicants	Number of Waitlist Offers Extended to Eligible Continuing Applicants	Number of Offers from Other Procedures Extended to Eligible Continuing Applicants	Percent of Eligible Continuing Applicants Who Received any Offer (Prior Year's Percent in Parentheses ¹¹)	Total Offers Extended to All SDP 8 th Grade Applicants	Percent of All Offers Extended to SDP 8th Graders Extended to Continuing Students (Prior Year's Percent in Parentheses)
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	57	34	0	0	59.6% (92.5%)	515	6.6% (7.3%)
Girard Academic Music Program	66**	61	0	5**	100% (86.0%)	105	62.9% (66.1%)

¹¹ The prior year's rates reflect significantly different circumstances and systems. In particular, eligibility was not integrated with a lottery process, and schools had greater discretion to determine eligibility. For that reason, these rates reflect the percent of students who applied to remain at their site, and who received an offer, without regard to specific eligibility standards.

School	Number of Eligible Continuing Applicants	Number of Lottery Offers Extended to Eligible Continuing Applicants	Number of Waitlist Offers Extended to Eligible Continuing Applicants	Number of Offers from Other Procedures Extended to Eligible Continuing Applicants	Percent of Eligible Continuing Applicants Who Received any Offer (Prior Year's Percent in Parentheses ¹¹)	Total Offers Extended to All SDP 8 th Grade Applicants	Percent of All Offers Extended to SDP 8 th Graders Extended to Continuing Students (Prior Year's Percent in Parentheses)
Hill-Freedman World Academy	60	39	5	0	73.3% (60.3%)	258	17.1% (21.7%)
Julia R. Masterman School *	170	43	13	0	32.9% (68.9%)	143	39.2% (98.5%)
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber***	42	40	2	0	100%	189	22.2%
Total	395	152	28	5	61.3% (73.7%)	1,210	20.0% (30.2%)

* These schools admitted some continuing eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see Box 1 or footnote 2 for more information about priority zip codes). These students are included in the *Number of Eligible Continuing Applicants* totals for those schools.

** There were 61 eligible applicants to Girard Academy Music Program at the time of the lottery. Five additional students were designated as eligible after review, and all 5 of these students received an offer.

*** Prior-year data are omitted because 2021-22 was the first year that SLA Beeber had an 8th grade class.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

RQ6: How frequently did students accept admission offers extended through the lottery or through the waitlist process?

When students received both lottery and waitlist offers, they were more likely to accept a lottery offer (Table 15). In these cases, only 23.6% of students accepted a waitlist offer. In contrast, students who received only offers in the waitlist phase were much more likely to accept (45.5%). The largest number of student acceptances, however, was aligned to students who received only lottery offers, with no opportunities from the waitlist process (2,406 students). Of all students who received at least one CB offer by either process, 17.2% chose not to accept any CB offer.

Table 15. Student acceptances of admission offers from CB schools, by type of offer (lottery or waitlist).

Types of CB Offers Received	Accepted CB Lottery Offer		Accepted CB Waitlist Offer		Accepted No CB Offer		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Lottery Only	2,406	83.4%	NA	NA	478	16.6%	2,884
Waitlist Only	NA	NA	70	45.5%	84	54.5%	154
Both Lottery and Waitlist	359	66.6%	127	23.6%	53	9.8%	539
Total	2,765	77.3%	197	5.5%	615	17.2%	3,577

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

At the school level, there was significant variation in student acceptances of lottery and waitlist offers (Table 16). This is due, in part, to differences in the number of waitlist offers that were extended, which in turn was dependent on how many students accepted lottery offers at each school. For example, some schools with high numbers of lottery acceptances, such as Carver, extended no waitlist offers. In other cases, such as at Franklin Learning Center, there were many waitlist offers extended and accepted.

Table 16. Student acceptances of admission offers from each CB school, by type of offer (lottery or waitlist).

Criteria-Based School or Program	Number of Students Receiving Lottery Offer	Number of Students Accepting Lottery Offer	Percent of Lottery Offers Accepted	Number of Students Receiving Waitlist Offer	Number of Students Accepting Waitlist Offer	Percent of Waitlist Offers Accepted
Academy at Palumbo*	609	268	44.0%	0	0	NA
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	159	105	66.0%	1	1	100.0%
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	515	183	35.5%	0	0	NA
Central High School*	611	422	69.1%	40	29	72.5%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	162	98	60.5%	22	16	72.7%
Franklin Learning Center	392	157	40.1%	173	37	21.4%
George Washington High School**	88	22	25.0%	0	0	NA
Girard Academic Music Program	102	43	42.2%	0	0	NA
Hill-Freedman World Academy	242	77	31.8%	16	3	18.8%
Julia R. Masterman School*	111	75	67.6%	32	25	78.1%
Lankenau High School	277	99	35.7%	7	3	42.9%
Motivation High School	129	45	34.9%	72	7	9.7%
Northeast High School**	840	431	51.3%	0	0	NA
Parkway Center City Middle College	291	94	32.3%	63	11	17.5%
Parkway Northwest High School	198	53	26.8%	83	11	13.3%

Criteria-Based School or Program	Number of Students Receiving Lottery Offer	Number of Students Accepting Lottery Offer	Percent of Lottery Offers Accepted	Number of Students Receiving Waitlist Offer	Number of Students Accepting Waitlist Offer	Percent of Waitlist Offers Accepted
Parkway West High School	151	47	31.1%	15	3	20.0%
Philadelphia High School for Girls	677	242	35.7%	9	3	33.3%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	146	48	32.9%	126	31	24.6%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	177	62	35.0%	12	4	33.3%
Walter B. Saul High School	288	91	31.6%	53	13	24.5%
William W. Bodine High School	332	103	31.0%	0	0	NA
All District 8 th Graders (Total Applications)	6497	2765	42.6%	724	197	27.2%

* These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see Table 5). These students are included in the *Fully Eligible for Lottery* totals for those schools.

** These are catchment schools, but they have embedded criteria-based programs.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [3/31/2022].

Conclusions and Next Steps

As in previous years, students could apply to up to five schools during the 2021-22 School Selection Process. However, for the first time, the 2021-22 process included a lottery phase for initial offers of admission to criteria-based schools and programs, rather than offers being determined by school personnel. As in previous years, there was an initial offer phase and a waitlist phase. Of the 8,770 students who were in 8th grade in District schools as of November 21, 2021 (the close of the application window), 3,993 District 8th graders submitted at least one eligible application to Criteria-Based schools, and 89.6% of those applicants received at least one offer to attend a CB school or program.

A future brief will address the final enrollment results for 9th grade students in the Fall of 2022-23.

Appendix A: Qualification Levels of Criteria-Based Schools and Programs

Criteria-Based School or Program	Required Qualification Level	Performance or Portfolio Requirement
Julia R. Masterman School**	High-22 Algebra	No
Central High School**	High-22	No
Academy at Palumbo**	High-17	No
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science) **		No
Parkway Center City Middle College		No
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush		Yes
Creative and Performing Arts High School (CAPA)	Medium	Yes
Girard Academic Music Program		Yes
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)		Yes
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber		Yes
Franklin Learning Center		Yes (some programs)
George Washington High School*	Minimum	No
Hill-Freedman World Academy		No
Lankenau High School		No
Motivation High School		No
Northeast High School*		No
Parkway Northwest High School		No
Parkway West High School		No
Philadelphia High School for Girls		No
Walter B. Saul High School		No
William W. Bodine High School		No

* Qualification level refers to Criteria-Based programs embedded within non-CB schools.

** These schools offered priority admission to eligible applicants with home addresses in one of six zip codes.