

2021-22 School Selection: Applications, Admission Offers, and Student Acceptances by Internal and External Students Applying to Grades K-12 with a Focus on 9th Grade

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., and Peter Hawes, M.P.P.

Key Findings

- **Students in all grades participate in the school selection process, but about two-thirds (68.9%) of all applicants were 8th graders applying for 9th grade.**
- **For students applying for 9th grade, and for all phases of the school selection process, external applicants comprised roughly one-third of the students (and two-thirds were internal applicants).**
- **For applicants to 9th grade, external students constituted:**
 - 34.4% of students who applied to at least one criteria-based school or program.
 - 31.9% of students entered into at least one criteria-based lottery.
 - 32.4% of students who received at least one criteria-based admission offer.
 - 32.4% of students who accepted a criteria-based admission offer.

Introduction

This brief extends an ongoing series of reports on the School District of Philadelphia's (SDP) 2021-2022 school selection process, focusing on 8th grade students applying for admission to criteria-based (CB) high schools.¹ For readers not already familiar with the District's school selection process, those reports provide detailed descriptions of the procedures that comprise the process, and also

¹ Previous reports can be found here: <https://www.philasd.org/research/category/school-selection/>

detailed analyses of each stage of the process, from student qualifications and applications,² to outcomes of school-specific lotteries,³ to final admission offers and student decisions.⁴

To date, all of these reports have exclusively concerned students who were enrolled in SDP schools during the application phase of the process. However, the school selection process is open to all students in Philadelphia, including those enrolled in charter, private, and SDP schools. In this report, we provide additional information and summaries concerning these external applicants to CB schools and programs offering 9th grade (see Box 1).

² <https://www.philasd.org/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2022/03/School-Selection-Qualifications-and-Applications-2021-22-Research-Brief-March-2022.pdf>

³ <https://www.philasd.org/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2022/11/School-Selection-Lottery-Outcomes-2021-22-Research-Brief-March-2022.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.philasd.org/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2022/06/School-Selection-Admission-Offers-2021-22-Research-Brief-June-2022.pdf>

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.

Citywide and Catchment Schools and Programs: These schools do not have entry criteria. Students must apply to a citywide school in order to be admitted. Students do not have to apply to the specific catchment school associated with their home address, but may apply to a different catchment school if they wish to attend.

Internal Applicant: A student who was enrolled in a District school when they applied. For these students, the District has direct access to all demographic and qualification data because this information is already integrated into native systems. These data are automatically appended to all applications from these students.

External Applicant: Any applicant who was not designated as internal. Some examples are students who were enrolled at charter, private, or parochial schools. These students apply through a dedicated online portal, which is similar to, but distinct from, that used by internal applicants. For these students, data sources are generally a combination of self-reported demographic information and transcript information which is not readily machine-readable. Due to this limitation in data quality and access, our analyses of these students are limited in scope, and restricted to aggregated data only.

Lottery Entry: If a student applied to a CB school or program and met all of that school's eligibility requirements, then they were entered into a lottery process for that school. For this reason, the number of applications received by a given school could be larger than the number of lottery entries assigned, depending on the number of applications submitted by students who did not meet the requirements.

Admission Offer: An applicant might have received an immediate offer to a school if they experienced a favorable lottery outcome. However, they might have also received an offer through the waitlist process or, very rarely, through an appeal.

Student Acceptance of Admission Offer: An individual student might have received offers of admission to multiple CB schools, but could only accept one such offer.

Applications versus Unique Applicants: Some CB schools house multiple CB programs. At these schools it is possible for a student to submit two or more applications to the same school (e.g., the Dance and the Music programs at a school with a performing arts focus). As a result, there are small differences at some schools between analyses that focus on the progress of a specific application through each phase of the process, as opposed to the progress of a specific student.

Research Questions

This brief summarizes the number of external and internal K-12 applicants to SDP schools. Because two-thirds of applicants in 2021-22 were 8th grade students applying for 9th grade, we examine applications to 9th grade in depth.⁵ Five related research questions guided the analyses.

1. RQ1: For all grades, and all school types, how many students submitted at least one application, received at least one offer of admission, and accepted at least one offer?
2. RQ2: For each criteria-based school or program, how many applications for 9th grade were submitted by both external and internal students? How many unique external and internal applicants applied to each of these schools and programs?
3. RQ3: For each criteria-based school or program, how many applications for 9th grade from both external and internal students were evaluated as eligible and resulted in a lottery entry? How many unique external and internal applicants were placed into at least one lottery in each of these schools and programs?
4. RQ4: For each criteria-based school or program, how many applications for 9th grade from both external and internal students ultimately resulted in an offer of admission (regardless of whether that offer came via the lottery process, the waitlist process, or via the appeals process)? How many unique external and internal applicants for 9th grade received an admission offer (from any process) to attend each of these schools and programs?
5. RQ5: For each criteria-based school or program, how many unique external and internal applicants accepted an admission offer for 9th grade?⁶

⁵ There are also schools with criteria-based admissions that begin in 5th grade. Additional summary tables about 5th grade applications and offers are presented in Appendix B.

⁶ Students may only accept one admission offer, so at this stage of the process the count of applications resulting in a student acceptance becomes identical with the count of accepting students—thus there is no need for distinct analyses.

Findings

RQ1: For all grades, and all school types, how many students submitted at least one application, received at least one offer of admission, and accepted at least one offer?

Applications to All Grades, and All School Types

Students in any grade may participate in the school selection process. Students may have options to apply to catchment, citywide (CW), and/or criteria-based schools (see Box 1). However, those options vary depending on the student's grade level. In particular, for 2021-22 there were two CW schools that serve grades K-4, and a limited number of CW and CB schools (11) serving one or more grade between 5 and 8. In contrast, a total of 31 schools offered CW or CB admission for students in grades 9-12.

Together, this means that there is a significant increase in CW and CB options which coincides with the transition to high school. This likely explains the finding that of the 15,384 students who submitted at least one application to any school, 10,606 (68.9%) were in 8th grade, applying for 9th grade (Table 1). No other grade had comparable levels of participation; the next largest application pools were for students entering 6th grade (1,056; 6.9%), 5th grade (768; 5.0%), 10th grade (731; 4.8%) and kindergarten (671; 4.4%). These findings regarding number of applicants are carried through with the numbers of students receiving, and accepting, offers of admission.

Given the especially high activity associated with rising 9th graders, the remainder of this brief will focus on analyses of those students (see Appendix B for some additional analyses of students applying for admission as 5th graders at CB schools).

Table 1. Combined number of internal and external students who submitted any application, received any admission offer, and accepted any admission offer, regardless of school type.

Grade in 2022-23	Total Number of Students (Internal and External) Submitting at Least One Application to A School of Any Type	Number of Students Receiving at Least One Admission Offer to Attend a School of Any Type	Number of Students Accepting an Admission Offer
K	671	520	364
1	165	139	90
2	102	78	42
3	91	71	42
4	88	72	40
5	768	532	455
6	1,056	814	603
7	352	233	170
8	172	93	49
9	10,606	9,440	8,129
10	731	500	303
11	444	296	159
12	138	92	35
Total	15,384	12,880	10,481

Applications for 9th Grade Admission

Overall, including both external and internal applicants, a total of 8,685 students applied to at least one 9th grade CB school or program, and, of those, 5,864 were placed into at least one CB lottery (Table 2). The total number of applicants receiving at least one CB admission offer was 5,313, and 4,405 applicants accepted at least one such offer.

Table 2. Overall summary of CB lottery entries, CB admission offers, and student acceptances of CB admission offers for 9th grade; external and internal 8th grade applicants combined.

Number of Students Submitting at Least One CB Application for 9 th Grade	Number of Students Entered into at Least One CB Lottery for 9 th Grade	Number of Students Receiving at Least One CB Admission Offer for 9 th Grade	Number of Students Accepting at Least One CB Admission Offer for 9 th Grade
8,685	5,864	5,313	4,405

RQ2: For each criteria-based school or program, how many applications for 9th grade were submitted by both external and internal students? How many unique external and internal applicants applied to each of these schools and programs?

An individual student may submit as many as five applications, and any number of those applications might be directed to one of the District's criteria-based schools or programs. Overall, these programs received a total of 27,434 applications for admission to 9th grade, and 10,248 (37.4%) of those applications were submitted by external applicants. At individual schools and programs, the percent of applications submitted by external applicants ranged from 8.9% at CB programs embedded in George Washington High School, to 46.2% at Science Leadership Academy at Beeber (Table 3).

An individual student may submit up to five applications, and in some cases a CB school offers multiple, specific CB programs within that school. Thus, it is not only useful to summarize data at the level of total applications to each school, but also in terms of the number of unique student applicants who applied (at least once) to each school. A total of 8,685 unique applicants submitted at least one application to a CB school for 9th grade (Table 4). Of those unique applicants, 2,989 (34.4%) were external.

Table 3. Number of applications submitted to each CB school by external and internal applicants for 9th grade, regardless of whether applicants met that school's requirements.⁷

School	Total Number of Applications for 9 th Grade	Number of Applications for 9 th Grade from Internal Applicants	Number of Applications for 9 th Grade from External Applicants	Percent of Applications for 9 th Grade from External Applicants
Academy at Palumbo*	2,402	1,440	962	40.0%
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	817	560	257	31.5%
Central High School*	4,163	2,608	1,555	37.4%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	1,756	1,027	729	41.5%
Franklin Learning Center	1,623	1,085	538	33.1%
George Washington High School**	135	123	12	8.9%
Girard Academic Music Program	356	215	141	39.6%
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	2,046	1,193	853	41.7%
Hill-Freedman World Academy	769	432	337	43.8%
Julia R. Masterman School*	1,476	900	576	39.0%
Lankenau High School	529	357	172	32.5%
Motivation High School	468	293	175	37.4%
Northeast High School**	2,468	1,964	504	20.4%
Parkway Center City Middle College	1,537	900	637	41.4%
Parkway Northwest High School	593	385	208	35.1%
Parkway West High School	478	263	215	45.0%
Philadelphia High School for Girls	1,327	835	492	37.1%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	1,683	960	723	43.0%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	604	325	279	46.2%
Walter B. Saul High School	717	460	257	35.8%
William W. Bodine High School	1,487	861	626	42.1%
Total	27,434	17,186	10,248	37.4%

*These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see the report linked in footnote 3 for more information about priority zip codes).

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

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [6/23/2022].

⁷ In rare cases, students submitted applications to two (or more) programs within the same school. In this table, those cases appear as multiple applications.

Table 4. Number of unique external and internal applicants for 9th grade to each CB school, regardless of whether applicants met that school's requirements.

School	Total Number of Unique Applicants for 9 th Grade	Number of Unique Internal Applicants for 9 th Grade	Number of Unique External Applicants for 9 th Grade	Percent of Unique Applicants for 9 th Grade Who Were External
Academy at Palumbo*	2,402	1,440	962	40.0%
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	748	513	235	31.4%
Central High School*	4,163	2,608	1,555	37.4%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	1,595	941	654	41.0%
Franklin Learning Center	1,592	1,066	526	33.0%
George Washington High School**	124	123	12	9.7%
Girard Academic Music Program	356	215	141	39.6%
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	2,046	1,193	853	41.7%
Hill-Freedman World Academy	769	432	337	43.8%
Julia R. Masterman School*	1,476	900	576	39.0%
Lankenau High School	529	357	172	32.5%
Motivation High School	468	293	175	37.4%
Northeast High School**	2,123	1,668	455	21.4%
Parkway Center City Middle College	1,537	900	637	41.4%
Parkway Northwest High School	593	385	208	35.1%
Parkway West High School	478	263	215	45.0%
Philadelphia High School for Girls	1,327	835	492	37.1%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	1,683	960	723	43.0%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	604	325	279	46.2%
Walter B. Saul High School	717	460	257	35.8%
William W. Bodine High School	1,487	861	626	42.1%
Total***	8,685	5,696	2,989	34.4%

*These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see the report linked in footnote 3 for more information about priority zip codes).

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

***These values reflect the total number of unique applicants. These are not the simple sums of the respective columns, as a single student might appear in the total for as many as five different schools.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [6/23/2022].

RQ3: For each criteria-based school or program, how many applications for 9th grade from both external and internal students were evaluated as eligible and resulted in a lottery entry? How many unique external and internal applicants were placed into at least one lottery in each of these schools and programs?

Each application was evaluated to determine whether the applicant met all of the school's (or program's) eligibility requirements. If the applicant was found to be eligible, then they were entered into the lottery process for that school (see Appendix A for details of eligibility requirements). There were 14,879 total lottery entries across all CB schools and programs, of which 4,452 (29.9%) were associated with external applicants (Table 5).

When applications are collapsed to unique applicants to 9th grade, we find that 5,864 students were entered into at least one CB lottery, of which 1,871 (31.9%) were external (Table 6).

Table 5. Number of applications to the 9th grade submitted to each CB school by external and internal applicants for 9th grade, that resulted in a lottery entry.⁸

School	Total Number of Applications for 9 th Grade Resulting in a Lottery Entry	Number of Applications for 9 th Grade from Internal Applicants Resulting in a Lottery Entry	Number of Applications for 9 th Grade from External Applicants Resulting in a Lottery Entry	Percent of All Lottery Entries for 9 th Grade Assigned to External Applicants
Academy at Palumbo*	1,552	980	572	36.9%
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	252	160	92	36.5%
Central High School*	1,681	1,129	552	32.8%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	358	213	145	40.5%
Franklin Learning Center	880	649	231	26.3%
George Washington High School**	119	110	9	7.6%
Girard Academic Music Program	137	102	35	25.5%
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	1,322	852	470	35.6%
Hill-Freedman World Academy	516	339	177	34.3%
Julia R. Masterman School*	547	437	110	20.1%
Lankenau High School	337	284	53	15.7%
Motivation High School	320	204	116	36.3%
Northeast High School**	1,838	1,629	209	11.4%
Parkway Center City Middle College	841	537	304	36.1%
Parkway Northwest High School	372	284	88	23.7%
Parkway West High School	248	166	82	33.1%
Philadelphia High School for Girls	984	686	298	30.3%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	613	383	230	37.5%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	327	189	138	42.2%
Walter B. Saul High School	490	341	149	30.4%
William W. Bodine High School	1,145	753	392	34.2%
Total	14,879	10,427	4,452	29.9%

*These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see the report linked in footnote 3 for more information about priority zip codes).

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

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [6/23/2022].

⁸ In rare cases, students were entered into two (or more) lotteries associated with two (or more) distinct programs within the same school. In this table, those cases appear as multiple lottery entries.

Table 6. Number of unique external and internal applicants for 9th grade who were entered in a lottery at each CB school.

School	Total Number of Unique Applicants for 9 th Grade Entered in a Lottery	Number of Unique Internal Applicants for 9 th Grade Entered in a Lottery	Number of Unique External Applicants for 9 th Grade Entered in a Lottery	Percent of All Unique Applicants with a Lottery Entry for 9 th Grade Who Were External
Academy at Palumbo*	1,552	980	572	36.9%
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	226	144	82	36.3%
Central High School*	1,681	1,129	552	32.8%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	335	199	136	40.6%
Franklin Learning Center	871	645	226	25.9%
George Washington High School**	119	110	9	7.6%
Girard Academic Music Program	137	102	35	25.5%
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	1,322	852	470	35.6%
Hill-Freedman World Academy	516	339	177	34.3%
Julia R. Masterman School*	547	437	110	20.1%
Lankenau High School	337	284	53	15.7%
Motivation High School	320	204	116	36.3%
Northeast High School**	1,541	1,360	181	11.7%
Parkway Center City Middle College	841	537	304	36.1%
Parkway Northwest High School	372	284	88	23.7%
Parkway West High School	248	166	82	33.1%
Philadelphia High School for Girls	984	686	298	30.3%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	613	383	230	37.5%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	327	189	138	42.2%
Walter B. Saul High School	490	341	149	30.4%
William W. Bodine High School	1,145	753	392	34.2%
Total***	5,864	3,993	1,871	31.9%

*These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see the report linked in footnote 3 for more information about priority zip codes).

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

***These values reflect the total number of unique applicants. These are not the simple sums of the respective columns, as a single student might appear in the total for as many as five different schools.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [6/23/2022].

RQ4: For each criteria-based school or program, how many applications for 9th grade from both external and internal students ultimately resulted in an offer of admission (regardless of whether that offer came via the lottery process, the waitlist process, or via the appeals process)? How many unique external and internal applicants received an admission offer (from any process) to attend each of these schools and programs?

Students who were entered into a lottery process might have received an offer directly via that process, but they might have also received an offer via the subsequent waitlist process, or (rarely) through specialized appeals. Across all CB programs and schools, 10,442 admission offers were extended, with 3,200 (30.6%) of those extended to external applicants (Table 7).

When admission offers are summarized by unique applicants, we find that 5,313 students received at least one CB admission offer, of which 1,724 (32.4%) were external (Table 8).

Table 7. Number of admission offers to attend each CB school extended to external and internal applicants for 9th grade.⁹

School	Total Number of 9 th Grade Admission Offers Extended	Number of 9 th Grade Admission Offers Extended to Internal Applicants	Number of 9 th Grade Admission Offers Extended to External Applicants	Percent of All 9 th Grade Admission Offers Extended to External Applicants
Academy at Palumbo*	977	609	368	37.7%
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	264	167	97	36.7%
Central High School*	960	653	307	32.0%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	309	185	124	40.1%
Franklin Learning Center	770	566	204	26.5%
George Washington High School**	94	88	6	6.4%
Girard Academic Music Program	146	108	38	26.0%
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	824	515	309	37.5%
Hill-Freedman World Academy	398	258	140	35.2%
Julia R. Masterman School*	170	143	27	15.9%
Lankenau High School	339	284	55	16.2%
Motivation High School	317	201	116	36.6%
Northeast High School**	950	840	110	11.6%
Parkway Center City Middle College	556	354	202	36.3%
Parkway Northwest High School	368	281	87	23.6%
Parkway West High School	249	167	82	32.9%
Philadelphia High School for Girls	986	686	300	30.4%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	446	274	172	38.6%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	327	189	138	42.2%
Walter B. Saul High School	491	342	149	30.3%
William W. Bodine High School	501	332	169	33.7%
Total	10,442	7,242	3,200	30.6%

*These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see the report linked in footnote 3 for more information about priority zip codes).

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

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [6/23/2022].

⁹ In rare cases, students received offers to two (or more) programs within the same school. In this table, those cases appear as multiple offers.

Table 8. Number of unique external and internal applicants for 9th grade who received an offer to attend each CB school.

School	Total Number of Applicants for 9 th Grade Receiving an Admission Offer	Number of Unique Internal Applicants for 9 th Grade Receiving an Admission Offer	Number of Unique External Applicants for 9 th Grade Receiving an Admission Offer	Percent of All Unique Applicants for 9 th Grade Receiving an Admission Offer Who Were External
Academy at Palumbo*	977	609	368	37.7%
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	238	151	87	36.6%
Central High School*	960	653	307	32.0%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	291	175	116	39.9%
Franklin Learning Center	763	563	200	26.2%
George Washington High School**	94	88	6	6.4%
Girard Academic Music Program	146	108	38	26.0%
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	824	515	309	37.5%
Hill-Freedman World Academy	398	258	140	35.2%
Julia R. Masterman School*	170	143	27	15.9%
Lankenau High School	339	284	55	16.2%
Motivation High School	317	201	116	36.6%
Northeast High School**	868	764	104	12.0%
Parkway Center City Middle College	556	354	202	36.3%
Parkway Northwest High School	368	281	87	23.6%
Parkway West High School	249	167	82	32.9%
Philadelphia High School for Girls	986	686	300	30.4%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	446	274	172	38.6%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	327	189	138	42.2%
Walter B. Saul High School	491	342	149	30.3%
William W. Bodine High School	501	332	169	33.7%
Total***	5,313	3,589	1,724	32.4%

*These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see the report linked in footnote 3 for more information about priority zip codes).

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

***These values reflect the total number of unique applicants. These are not the simple sums of the respective columns, as a single student might appear in the total for as many as five different schools.

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [6/23/2022].

RQ5: For each criteria-based school or program, how many unique external and internal applicants for 9th grade accepted an admission offer?

A total of 4,405 students accepted an admission offer to 9th grade from a CB school or program. Those acceptances were distributed between external and internal applicants at the same rate that offers were—with 32.4% (1,427) associated with external applicants (Table 9).

Table 9. Number of external and internal applicants for 9th grade who accepted an offer to attend each CB school.

School	Total Number of 9 th Grade Offers Accepted	Number of Internal Applicants Who Accepted a 9 th Grade Offer	Number of External Applicants Who Accepted a 9 th Grade Offer	Percent of All 9 th Grade Admission Offers Accepted by External Applicants
Academy at Palumbo*	438	268	170	38.8%
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	171	113	58	33.9%
Central High School*	680	453	227	33.4%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	205	114	91	44.4%
Franklin Learning Center	260	195	65	25.0%
George Washington High School**	26	22	4	15.4%
Girard Academic Music Program	65	46	19	29.2%
Carver (High School of Engineering and Science)*	313	183	130	41.5%
Hill-Freedman World Academy	138	80	58	42.0%
Julia R. Masterman School*	117	100	17	14.5%
Lankenau High School	120	102	18	15.0%
Motivation High School	109	52	57	52.3%
Northeast High School**	473	431	42	8.9%
Parkway Center City Middle College	175	105	70	40.0%
Parkway Northwest High School	91	64	27	29.7%
Parkway West High School	72	51	21	29.2%
Philadelphia High School for Girls	361	245	116	32.1%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)	143	81	62	43.4%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	115	66	49	42.6%
Walter B. Saul High School	173	104	69	39.9%
William W. Bodine High School	160	103	57	35.6%
Total	4,405	2,978	1,427	32.4%

*These schools admitted some eligible applicants through the zip code priority process (see the report linked in footnote 3 for more information about priority zip codes).

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

Source: Data from Qlik [School Selection – Builder V2.0.9] Data retrieved [6/23/2022].

Conclusion

As in previous years, any student living in Philadelphia could apply to up to five District schools or programs during the 2021-22 School Selection Process, and could apply to schools with catchment, citywide and/or criteria-based enrollment models.

Further, students could (and did) apply for admission to any grade from kindergarten through 12th. There were however, large differences in participation levels across grades. Generally, participation was higher for those grades most associated with entering a new school as one of the youngest students. For example, some grades with above-average applicant counts were for entry into kindergarten, and into grades 5 and 6 (which are the youngest grades at some middle- and middle-high schools; see Appendix B for additional details about applications for 5th grade). However, even these cases had much fewer applicants than those for entry into high schools. Applicants for 9th grade were much more numerous than for any other grade, accounting for 68.9% of all applicants.

Given the preponderance of applications to 9th grade, our remaining analyses focused on applicants to 9th grade in CB schools and programs; in doing so, we extended our ongoing analyses of the 2021-22 School Selection Process to an examination of internal and external applicants. We found that the majority of students who applied to at least one CB school were already District students, enrolled in a District school during the application period. However, other (external) students accounted for approximately one-third of CB applicants, one-third of entries into CB lotteries, one-third of the students who received a CB offer, and one-third of those who accepted such an offer.

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

Correction: In January 2023 this research brief was corrected to add missing double asterisks (**) indications for George Washington High School and Northeast High School in the tables on pp. 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 17.

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

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.

Table A1. Eligibility criteria for each CB high school.

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	Medium	Yes
Creative and Performing Arts High School (CAPA)		Yes
Girard Academic Music Program		Yes
Science Leadership Academy (SLA)		Yes
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber		Yes
Franklin Learning Center	Minimum	Yes (some programs)
George Washington High School*		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.

Appendix B: Internal and External 4th Grade Applicants to Criteria-Based Schools Serving 5th Grade

Four criteria-based (CB) schools serve 5th grade, and applications to these schools represent one of the most active segments of the school selection process outside of applications to 9th grade. This Appendix provides details of this activity, for both internal and external students, with summaries of unique applicants (Table C1), admission offers (Table C2), and offers accepted (C3).

Table B1. Number of unique external and internal applicants for 5th grade to each CB school, regardless of whether applicants met that school's requirements.

School	Total Number of Unique Applicants for 5 th Grade	Number of Unique Internal Applicants for 5 th Grade	Number of Unique External Applicants for 5 th Grade	Percent of Unique Applicants for 5 th Grade Who Were External
Girard Academic Music Program	256	173	83	32.4%
Julia R. Masterman School	551	358	193	35.0%
Russell H. Conwell School	90	78	12	13.3%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	127	79	48	37.8%
Total	1024	688	336	32.8%

Table B2. Number of unique external and internal applicants for 5th grade who received an offer to attend each CB school.

School	Total Number of 5 th Grade Admission Offers Extended	Number of 5 th Grade Admission Offers Extended to Internal Applicants	Number of 5 th Grade Admission Offers Extended to External Applicants	Percent of All 5 th Grade Admission Offers Extended to External Applicants
Girard Academic Music Program	100	71	29	29.0%
Julia R. Masterman School	200	151	49	24.5%
Russell H. Conwell School	73	63	10	13.7%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	104	66	38	36.5%
Total	477	351	126	26.4%

Table B3. Number of external and internal applicants for 5th grade who accepted an offer to attend each CB school.

School	Total Number of 5 th Grade Offers Accepted	Number of Internal Applicants Who Accepted a 5 th Grade Offer	Number of External Applicants Who Accepted a 5 th Grade Offer	Percent of All 5 th Grade Admission Offers Accepted by External Applicants
Girard Academic Music Program	73	47	26	35.6%
Julia R. Masterman School	162	123	39	24.1%
Russell H. Conwell School	32	30	2	6.3%
Science Leadership Academy (SLA) at Beeber	29	18	11	37.9%
Total	296	218	78	26.4%