

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 206

Section: 200 Pupils

Title: Assignment within
the District

Adopted: April 27, 1981

Revised: June 24, 2021

206 ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to giving each student what they need to reach their fullest potential. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that School District of Philadelphia (“District”) students are assigned to schools using strategies and reasoning that promote the best interest of children and utilize clear and transparent processes and procedures. The District’s goal throughout the assignment process is to create a school community whose members have diverse backgrounds and life experiences that enhance equity and reflect the city’s population.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, terms are defined as follows:

District schools:

1. **Neighborhood Schools:** Schools within the District that have a catchment area, where admission priority is given to students living within the particular catchment area. Students who live outside of the catchment area of a Neighborhood School can only be assigned to the school through a Central Office placement process. Admission in Neighborhood Schools by students who do not reside in the catchment area is subject to space availability. Neighborhood Schools do not include Renaissance Charter Schools as defined in Policy 401 - [Charter School Authorizing Functions](#).
2. **Citywide Schools:** Schools within the District that do not have a catchment area and can accept students from any part of Philadelphia. Admission to a Citywide School is based on the submission of an application and the outcome of a computerized lottery. Admission in these schools is subject to space availability.
3. **Special Admission Schools:** Schools within the District that do not have a catchment area and can accept students from any part of Philadelphia. Special Admission Schools require an application as well as students meeting established criteria in order to gain admission. Admission in these schools is subject to space availability.

Authority

The Pennsylvania Public School Code requires the Board to set school catchment areas.

No assignment to schools within the District shall discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability. [1][2]

In accordance with [Policy 202](#) - Eligibility of Non-resident Students in all cases, priority will be given to Philadelphia residents when assignments are made to schools. All assignments of non-Philadelphia residents will be subject to space availability and tuition payments. [3]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent, or their designee, to annually oversee and evaluate the School Selection Process to: a) assess criteria for admission to Special Admission Schools, to assure equity considerations are accounted for in the admissions process; and b) oversee admissions practices in neighborhood schools to monitor out-of-catchment placements.

The Board directs the Superintendent, or their designee, to publish an annual report on demographic enrollment data for evaluation of whether the School Selection process is being conducted in a manner that promotes equity and diverse school populations representative of the City.

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Student Enrollment and Placement (“OSEP”), to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy, including the review of catchment areas and the assignment and reassignment of students within the District, including the following. [4]

Students shall be assigned to attend a District school based on the primary residence of the student's legal or delegated guardian or the primary residence of the emancipated student. Exceptions shall be made for students with academic program support needs, students who are assigned through the Central Office placement process, or other extenuating circumstances approved by the Superintendent or designee, through OSEP.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee, through OSEP, in conjunction with all other relevant administrative offices, to ensure that students with a need for specialized programming, such as individual education programming or English language programming, or students in vulnerable populations, such as those living in foster care or experiencing homelessness, are assigned consistent with federal and state laws and rules. [5]

Legal References:

1. [Policy 103](#) - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices
2. [Policy 103.1](#) - Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students with Disabilities-Protected Handicapped Students

3. [Policy 202](#) - Eligibility Of Non-resident Students
4. [24 P.S. § 13-1310.1](#)
5. [24 P.S. § 13-1310](#)

Related Information:

[Policy 200](#) - Enrollment of Students