



January 16, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Approval of Revisions to the Controlled Choice Policy Regarding the Cambridge Preschool Program Admissions and Matriculation

Recommendation: That the School Committee approve revisions to the Controlled Choice Policy with respect to Cambridge Preschool Program admissions and matriculation. (Second Reading)

Description: Students turning three-years old and four-years old before September 1st will be eligible to register for enrollment into a preschool program at a CPS school through the Office of Early Childhood registration process. Students turning five-years old before September 1st who are not enrolled in a CPS preschool program will have the opportunity to participate in the Kindergarten lottery program consistent with current practice whereby their lottery eligibility occurs the January preceding their Kindergarten year.

Students enrolled pursuant to this provision in a CPS preschool at age four or Kindergarten at age five will matriculate into subsequent grade levels at their assigned elementary school. Students enrolled in a CPS preschool program at age three will be eligible to participate in the Office of Early Childhood registration process the following year as well for purposes of enrollment in preschool for the child's age four year, except for current CPS matriculating programs that commence in the child's age three year, i.e. Scholar College at the Fletcher Maynard Academy and the Children's House program within the Tobin Montossouri.

In the absence of a genuine hardship, students will not be allowed to transfer from one CPS elementary school to another, except as provided herein.

Subsequent to assignment to a CPS elementary school via the OEC preschool matching system (for four-year olds), parents or caretakers of students may request a transfer to a different, single CPS school subject to seat availability from the point of assignment until October 15th of the student's Kindergarten year for students who begin their CPS career in preschool.

Subsequent to assignment to a CPS elementary school via the CPS Kindergarten lottery (for five-year olds), or an assignment to Kindergarten after the Kindergarten Lottery, parents or caretakers of students may request a transfer to a different, single CPS school subject to seat availability from the point of assignment until October 15th of the student's first grade year for students who begin their CPS career in Kindergarten. Consistent with the current practice, students assigned to an elementary school via the CPS Kindergarten lottery in January of 2024 for the 2024 - 2025 school year other than first of the three schools to which they expressed a preference for enrollment will be placed on the waitlists for the remaining schools to which they indicated a preference for enrollment on the Kindergarten lottery registration form. No student will remain on waitlists for more than three schools, and the two-year window to remain on the waitlist(s) contemplated by this provision will be in effect for these waitlist placements.

Families wishing to remain on a waitlist for another elementary school into the second school year of the two-year window contemplated by this provision must affirm that desire to remain on the waitlist by November 15th preceding that second year. Transfers from a waitlist for students availing themselves of this provision will occur prior to October 15th of the year in which the transfer occurs. No student will be permitted to transfer pursuant to this provision more than once.

The transfer and waitlist policy herein will take effect upon the assignment of students to preschool and Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. Students currently on previously established waitlists from earlier iterations of this policy will remain unaffected through their elementary school careers.

Students with older siblings enrolled in the Chinese Immersion program at the Martin Luther King Elementary School or the Portuguese Ola Immersion program at the King Open School who are denied entry via the Office of Early Childhood Preschool Registration process and/or the Cambridge Public Schools Kindergarten Lottery Program due to seat capacity attributable to the total number of siblings enrolling and receiving sibling preference will be prioritized with respect to enrollment in the non-immersion classrooms in the school in which the older sibling is enrolled, and will have the opportunity to enroll in the immersion program should a seat become available during the two-year transfer window.

Upon adoption, the Superintendent will direct the Chief Operating Officer to ensure additional communication to families is disseminated to ensure maximum awareness of the associated deadlines and timelines consistent with this policy.

Respectfully submitted



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Superintendent of Schools