

2015

Public School Choice (PSC) Program Information Pamphlet (PIP)

Welcome!

Please review this Program Information Pamphlet (PIP) to learn about the Public School Choice (PSC) program and the tools you can use to help make informed school choice decisions.

For more information, visit us at www.nyc.gov/schools/PSC

For questions about the PSC program, call 718-935-2439 or email NCLB_PSC@schools.nyc.gov.

For transportation questions, contact the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) at 718-392-8855 or visit the OPT website at www.nyc.gov/schools/Offices/Transportation

To obtain a translated copy of this document, please visit the website below.		
للحصول على نسخة باللغة العربية من هذه الوثيقة، نرجو زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني أدناه.	Pour obtenir la traduction de ce document, merci de visiter le site internet cité ci-dessous.	Перевод данного документа на русский язык находится на вебсайте, указанном ниже.
এই নথির বাংলা অনুবাদের জন্য অনুগ্রহ করে নিচের ওয়েবসাইট দেখুন।	Pou ka jwenn yon kopi dokiman sa a an Kreyòl ayisyen, tanpri ale sou sit entènèt ki pi ba a.	Para obtener una versión en español de este documento, por favor visite el sitio de Internet a continuación.
如要取得本文件的中文譯本，請瀏覽下面的網站。	본 문서의 한국어판을 보시려면 다음 웹사이트를 방문해 주십시오.	اس دستاویز کے اردو ترجمہ کے لیے برائے مہربانی ذیل کی ویب سائٹ سے رجوع کریں۔
www.nyc.gov/schools/PSC		

Public School Choice (PSC) Eligibility

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) determine which students can participate in the PSC Program. This year, students are eligible for a PSC transfer if their school is in the following categories:

- **Priority or Focus:** Title I schools are identified by NYSED as Priority or Focus if they are among the lowest performing statewide in terms of overall performance, graduation rate, and/or other criteria.
- **Phase Out:** NYCDOE decides which schools should phase out due to low performance and/or low demand. Phase out is a process of gradual closure over a two- to three-year period.

The NYSED determines the accountability status of schools based on its own set of measures. For more information about NYSED accountability for schools please visit: www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability.

Students in the terminal grade of their school will not receive a PSC transfer application.

In 2014, 6,662 families applied for a transfer through the PSC program. Citywide, there were 12,015 available seats and 4,848 students received a transfer offer to a school In Good Standing (IGS) as determined by NYSED.

The Public School Choice (PSC) Application Process

Selecting Schools

All of your school options are listed in the enclosed PSC transfer application. You can select as many schools as you like, but the process does not consider the order of your preferences. You should pick at least four schools to increase your chances of receiving a transfer offer however you cannot add additional schools to your application. Your child may be matched to any school that you select, so choose only those schools you are willing to attend.

In addition to choosing schools on the application, you can select the “Other Schools” option. By making this selection, you may receive a transfer offer to a school with available seats if none of your chosen schools have open seats. “Other Schools” assignments will be made randomly.

Submitting the Application

If you would like to request a transfer for your child, you must sign and mail the completed application by mail using the enclosed return envelope. If you do not submit the application by the deadline, we will conclude you do not want to participate in the program and your child will remain enrolled in his or her current school. The application must be postmarked by **Friday, April 24, 2015**.

PSC is an optional program. If you would like your child to stay at their current school, you do not need to submit an application. You can also decline by checking NO on the application.

Decision Letters

Decision letters will be mailed to families in July. Offers are made based on seat availability, and in accordance with the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, which requires that the lowest-performing and lowest-income students have first priority. The PSC program has high demand and a limited number of seats available at each school, and there is no guarantee that you will receive a transfer offer for your child. If your child does not meet the grade requirements for promotion at the end of the school year, his or her transfer offer will be rescinded.

PSC transfer offers are not mandatory and can be declined. If you do not want to accept the offer, your child will remain enrolled at his or her current school.

Making Informed Decisions

Consider the following school qualities before you apply:

- Location
- School size
- Academic focus
- Curriculum offerings and after-school programs

There are many different types of schools listed on your application. Schools can vary with respect to their size, location, academic focus and curriculum offerings. To find more information about the programs and activities available at the schools you select, please visit www.nyc.gov/schools/ChoicesEnrollment for descriptions and contact information in the elementary, middle, and high school directories. You can also contact the selected schools on your application about curriculum offerings and after-school programs that may interest you.

Site Accessibility

If your child has limited mobility, please consider the accessibility of your potential transfer schools. For more information about site accessibility in New York City public schools, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/OSP/Accessibility>.

Transportation

We encourage you to consider the distance your child will have to travel to get to any school that you select on your application. Use the MTA website (www.mta.info) to estimate the best route and the distance/time from your home to a school. Make sure you consider how long it takes to get from your home to every school you select on your application. Students who transfer to a different school through PSC will receive transportation through the final grade of that school. Transportation could be a yellow school bus or a full fare Metro Card.

The following transportation rules apply to PSC transfers:

- Students in grades K-2 who live less than ½ mile from their school are eligible for a full-fare Metro Card.
- Students in grades K-2 who live more than ½ mile from their school are eligible for yellow school bus transportation.
- Students in grades 3-6 who live less than a mile from their school are eligible to receive a full-fare Metro Card.
- Students in grades 3-6 who live more than a mile or more from their school are eligible to receive yellow bus service.
- Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to receive full-fare Metro Cards, regardless of the distance they must travel to school.

Busing for General Education students is not available outside of the borough of residence. It is available through eighth grade for some schools in Districts 21, 25, 27, and 31. To see a list of these schools, visit www.nyc.gov/schools/Offices/Transportation.

You can call the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) at 718-392-8855 the week before school starts to confirm transportation to the new school.

English Language Learners

The NYCDOE provides a range of programs and supports to ensure that English Language Learners (ELLs) receive the language-based services necessary to excel in school. Schools *must* inform parents of the three program models in New York City whether or not the parent's preferred model is currently offered at the school. The programs models are Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE), Dual Language, and English as a Second Language (ESL). If you need additional information about services for ELL, please call 212-374-6072 or visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL/default.htm>

Special Education Services

If your child currently receives special education services, he or she will continue to receive them at his or her new school. At the new school, you will participate in your child's annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team meeting to review your child's progress. During the meeting, the IEP Team will document your child's current skills and abilities, review and establish educational goals, and determine what supports and services would be best for him or her.

Students with Disabilities who receive door-to-door transportation according to their IEP will continue to receive mandated transportation if they transfer to a different school through the PSC program.

Important Dates

- Information sessions take place in March (see below for dates and locations)
- PSC applications are due by **Friday, April 24, 2015.**
- Decision letters will be mailed to families in July.

Public School Choice (PSC) Information Sessions

All sessions take place from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Borough	Date	School Site	Street Address
Bronx	March 2	Herbert H. Lehman High School	3000 East Tremont Avenue
	March 10	Theodore Roosevelt Education Campus	500 East Fordham Road
Brooklyn	March 5	New Heights Middle School	790 East New York Avenue
	March 12	Sunset Park High School	153 35th Street
Manhattan	March 3	High School of Fashion Industries	225 West 24th Street
Queens	March 4	Francis Lewis High School	58-20 Utopia Parkway
Staten Island	March 9	The Michael J. Petrides School	715 Ocean Terrace (Building C)

The signed and completed PSC application must be postmarked by **Friday, April 24, 2015.**

Questions?

If you have questions about the PSC program please visit us at www.nyc.gov/schools/PSC. You can also contact the Office of Student Enrollment at 718-935-2439 or email NCLB_PSC@schools.nyc.gov with your questions.

For transportation questions, contact the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) at 718-392-8855 or visit the OPT website at www.nyc.gov/schools/Offices/Transportation.