

2014

Public School Choice Program Information Pamphlet

Welcome!

Please review this pamphlet to learn about the Public School Choice Program and the tools you will need to make informed decisions.

For more information, visit us at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Transfers/PublicSchoolChoice>.

For questions about the Public School Choice process, call 718-935-2439 or email us at 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۔
http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Transfers/PublicSchoolChoice		

Public School Choice Eligibility

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

1. **Priority or Focus:** NYSED identifies schools as Priority or Focus if they are among the lowest performing statewide in terms of overall performance, graduation rate, and/or other criteria.
2. **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.

All students currently attending a Title I Priority, Title I Focus and/or Phase-out schools may apply. However, fifth grade students at a K-5 school and eighth grade students who participate in the Middle School or High School Admissions Processes are not eligible to apply for a PSC transfer. High school seniors currently on track to graduate in June 2014 are not eligible to apply for a transfer.

In 2013, 8,086 families applied for transfers through the Public School Choice process. Citywide, there were 5,983 available seats and 4,194 students received a transfer offer to a school in good standing.

The Application Process

Selecting Schools

All of your school options are listed in the enclosed Transfer Application Form. 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. Your child may be matched to any school that you select, so choose only those schools where 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. You will only receive an offer for a school you did not pick, if none of your preferred schools has availability and you choose this option. “Other Schools” assignments will be made randomly.

Submitting the Application

If you would like to request a transfer for your child, you must submit the included Transfer Application Form by mail. **The application must be postmarked by May 2, 2014.** If you do not submit the Transfer Application Form by the deadline, your child will remain enrolled in his or her current school.

Public School Choice 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 participating in PSC by checking NO on the application.

Decision Letters

Decision letters will be mailed to families in July. Offers are made according to seat availability, and in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, which requires that the lowest-performing and lowest-income students have first priority. There are 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 denied.

You do not have to accept your transfer offer. If you do not want to accept the offer, your child will remain enrolled at his or her current school.

Make 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. Before you apply, contact schools to make sure that their programs and activities match your preferences. You can find contact information and detailed descriptions in the elementary, middle and high school directories at www.nyc.gov/schools/ChoicesEnrollment

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) determines the accountability status of schools based on its own set of measures. For more information about New York State's accountability for schools please visit: www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability

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, 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 know 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 Public School Choice will receive transportation through the final grade of that school. Transportation could be a yellow school bus or a full fare MetroCard.

The following transportation rules apply to Public School Choice 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 MetroCard.
- 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 Department of Education 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 English Language Learners (ELL), please call 212-374-6072 or visit <http://www.nyc.gov/schools/Academics/ELL>

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.

Special Education students who receive door-to-door transportation according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP) will continue to receive mandated transportation if they transfer to a different school through the Public School Choice program.

Important Dates

- Information sessions take place in April (see below for dates)
- The deadline to apply is May 2, 2014.
- Transfer offers will be mailed to families in July.

Public School Choice Information Sessions

All sessions take place from 6 pm – 8 pm.

Borough	Date	School Site	Street Address
Bronx	April 1	Herbert H. Lehman HS	3000 East Tremont Avenue
	April 8	Roosevelt Education Campus	500 East Fordham Road
Brooklyn	April 2	P.S. 178 St. Clair Mckelway	2163 Dean Street
	April 3	Sunset Park High School	153 35 th Street
Manhattan	April 9	HS of Fashion Industries	225 West 24 Street
Queens	April 10	Thomas Edison CTE HS	165-65 84 Avenue
Staten Island	April 7	The Michael J. Petrides School	715 Ocean Terrace (Building C)

The completed Public School Choice application must be postmarked by **Friday, May 2, 2014**

Questions?

If you have questions about the Public School Choice process, 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.

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