

2017

Public School Choice (PSC) Program Information Pamphlet

Welcome!

Please review this Program Information Pamphlet 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 schools.nyc.gov/psc.

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

For questions about transportation, contact the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) at 718-392-8855 or visit the website at www.OPTNYC.org

Please visit our website to get a translated version of this document.

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Prière de visiter notre site Internet pour avoir une version traduite de ce document.	Tanpri ale sou sit wèb nou an pou w ka jwenn yon kopi domikan sa a nan lòt lang	본 문서의 번역본은 저희 웹사이트에 있습니다.
Перевод документа помещен на нашем вебсайте.	Sea tan amable de visitar nuestro sitio web si quiere obtener una versión traducida de este documento.	اس دستاویز کی ترجمہ شدہ اشاعت حاصل کرنے کے لیے براہ کرم ہماری ویب سائٹ ملاحظہ کریں۔

schools.nyc.gov/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 transfer program. This year, students can apply for a PSC transfer if their school is identified as being in **Priority** status.

Priority schools: Based on the 2016-2017 NYSED school accountability data, Title I schools are identified as being in Priority status if they are among the lowest performing statewide in terms of overall performance, graduation rate, and/or other criteria.

Students are ineligible to receive a PSC transfer application if they are enrolled in the last grade of their school.

In 2016, 5,384 families applied for a Public School Choice transfer. Citywide, there were 9,938 available seats and 3,591 students received a transfer offer in accordance with the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

The Public School Choice (PSC) Application Process

Selecting Schools

All of your school options are listed on the enclosed PSC transfer application. You can choose as many schools as you like, but your choices will not be ranked in order of preference. You should pick at least four schools to increase your chances of getting a transfer offer. Only choose from the schools that appear on 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 pick the “Other Schools” option. By making this selection, you may get a transfer offer to a school with available seats if none of your chosen schools have seat availability.

Submitting the Application

If you would like to apply for a transfer for your child, you must sign and mail the completed application using the enclosed return envelope by **Friday, March 24, 2017**. If you do not submit the application by the deadline, your child will remain enrolled in his or her current school.

Decision Letters

Decision letters will be mailed to families in June. Transfer offers are made based on seat availability in accordance with the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, which requires that lower performing and lower income students have a higher priority for a PSC transfer. The PSC program has high demand and a limited number of seats available at each school. As a result, PSC transfer offers are not guaranteed. If your child does not meet the grade requirements for promotion at the end of the school year, his or her transfer offer may be withdrawn.

If you do not want to accept the transfer offer, no action is necessary and 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
- Travel distance and time
- Climate and culture

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

Site Accessibility

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

Transportation

Please consider travel time for any school that you select on your application. Use the MTA TripPlanner (www.mta.info) to estimate the best route, distance, and/or time from your home to a selected school.

Students enrolled through PSC will get transportation if they are eligible. Yellow bus transportation is not provided across boroughs. Yellow bus transportation is not provided for students in grades 7-12. PSC students not eligible for yellow bus transportation may be assigned a Metro Card that they can use on both MTA subway and buses.

The following transportation rules apply to PSC transfers for student in:

Grade levels	Distance	Transportation Type
K-2	Who live less than 1/2 mile from their school	Full Fare Metro Card
K-2	Who live more than 1/2 mile from their school	Yellow Bus
3-6	Who live less than a mile from their school	Full Fare Metro Card
3-6	Who live more than a mile or more from their school	Yellow Bus
7-12	Are eligible to receive only full fare Metro Cards, regardless of distance	Full Fare Metro Card

English Language Learners

The NYCDOE provides a range of programs and supports to ensure that English Language Learners (ELLs) get the language-based services necessary to succeed 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 program models are Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE), Dual Language, and English as a New Language (ENL). If you need additional information about services for ELL, please call 212-374-6072 or visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL>.

Special Education Services

If your child gets special education services, he or she will continue to get 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 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

- The completed PSC application must be signed and mailed by **Friday, March 24, 2017**.
- Decision letters will be mailed in June 2017.

Resources

For more information, visit schools.nyc.gov/psc

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