

Dear Families,

Over the past two years there have been a number of changes to the Controlled Choice Policy. We recognize that this system is complex, and we provide detailed information about the policy and its implementation within the Family Resource Center section of the CPS website. You may find it helpful to start here:

http://www3.cpsd.us/departments/frc/about_controlled_choice

It is important to us that all CPS students attend school within healthy and diverse classroom communities. We monitor school enrollments and communicate with Principals and families about any imbalances caused when students leave a particular school. At the same time, our current policy seeks to minimize the disruption caused when transfers take place between CPS schools.

It is important to note that non-hardship transfers are not allowed between December and the end of the school year. During the summer months and up until the December Vacation, transfers and new assignments will be made that will seek to reduce any imbalances that have arisen due to attrition, while letting as many students transfer as are eligible for the available seats.

Among the factors the Family Resource Center must consider are:

Socioeconomic (SES) balance: the percentage of enrolled students who qualify or do not qualify for free or reduced lunch must reflect the SES balance of the school district as a whole.

Gender balance: Gender balance is understood as neither gender exceeding 60% of enrollment in that grade at that school. When a grade level is over 60% of one gender, and there are open seats, children from the underrepresented gender are offered transfers ahead of other waitlisted students or new applicants until neither gender exceeds 60%. If there are no children of the underrepresented gender applying or waitlisted, children from the overrepresented gender will be admitted.

Language balance: For students wishing to attend Language Immersion Programs after Kindergarten, each school/program may have requirements in language proficiency designed to facilitate success for students. In addition, starting at 4th grade, students who are tested as program language dominant or bilingual may be admitted to immersion programs without consideration of SES balance.

Enrollments & Balance by Triad: The Controlled Choice Plan defines target and maximum enrollments for the Upper Schools. Enrollment and SES balance are managed at both the individual and combined triad/dyad levels.

The Family Resource Center and Office of the Chief Operating Officer are available to discuss concerns and questions that arise within schools. Often, the best process is to speak with your school Principal and request that I and/or representatives from the Family Resource Center attend a School Council Meeting or parent coffee. We will be happy to meet with families and answer any questions or concerns that may arise.

Sincerely,

Jim Maloney