**Student Assignment Policy**  
The Providence Schools student assignment policy is intended to achieve four major goals:  
  
• To be fair and equitable for every child in Providence;  
  
• To provide families with greater input into the school their child will attend;  
  
• To provide students with a greater opportunity to attend neighborhood schools;  
  
• To allow siblings to attend the same school.  
  
When can a student and his/her parent(s) choose which school to attend?  
Students and their families are asked to indicate a choice of new school when their child or children are coming to the district as new or returning students or are transitioning from the fifth or sixth grade of elementary into a middle school, and from the eighth grade in middle schools into a high school in Providence School District (private and charter schools are not included). For example, students and their families may choose a school when the student will be:  
  
• **Entering the district for the first time or returning to the district**  
• **Entering Kindergarten** (as a new student to the district);  
  
• **Entering Grade 1** only as a new student to the district (existing Providence Kindergarten students may not choose a new elementary school);  
  
• **Entering Grade 6** (upon graduating from an elementary school that ends in grade 5);  
  
• **Entering Grade 7** (upon graduating from an elementary school that ends in grade 6);  
  
• **Entering Grade 9** (upon graduating from a middle school that ends in grade 8).  
  
The assignment process begins in the Fall of the year before the start of the school year students will be moving into a new grade level (from elementary to middle and middle to high school). The student and his/her family may make a first and second school choice when participating in the student assignment process. A student will be placed in order of his/her choices to the extent school capacity allows.  
  
If there are more requests than seats, a public lottery will be held.  
  
If a student transfers into Providence Schools from outside of the district, the student may make a school choice only when entering into one of the aforementioned established grade levels. Otherwise, the student will be required to attend a neighborhood school based on seat availability.  
  
What is a neighborhood school?  
Neighborhood schools are the two closest schools within the “walk zone” of a student’s residence—one mile for grades K–6; one and one-half miles for grades 7 and 8; and three miles for grades 9–12. The neighborhood schools for those students who do not have a school within their walk zone are the two closest schools to their residence.  
  
What is a public lottery and how does it work?  
If any school has more requests for enrollment than there are seats, a lottery open to the public will be held at the Student Registration and Placement Center on an advertised date. All of the names of students wanting to attend the school as a first choice will be drawn and assigned in the order that they are drawn. After all available seats have been assigned; the names of those students remaining will also be drawn and put on a waiting list in the order that they are drawn. Siblings and special education students who must attend a school based on special needs as outlined in a student’s IEP will receive priority assignment and are exempt from the lottery.  
  
What is the allocation of seats for elementary and middle school students transitioning between levels?  
General education seats in all elementary and middle schools, except advanced academic programs, will be assigned as set forth below:  
  
• **Category One:** 80% of the general education seats in each school will be reserved for students who listed the school as a first choice and live in the neighborhood.  
  
• **Category Two:** 20% of the general education seats in each school will be reserved for students who listed the school as their first choice and do not live in the neighborhood.  
  
Within each category, students who have a sibling in the school will be given priority over students who do not. All students attending designated educational complexes will have first priority for remaining through middle school. Students who are unsuccessful with their first choice will be assigned to their second (third, fourth) choice as space allows.  
  
How are students assigned to high schools?  
General education seats in all high schools, except Classical High School (an application school that is not part of the student assignment plan) will be assigned as set forth below:  
  
• **Category One:** 80% of the general education seats in each school will be reserved for neighborhood students.  
  
• **Category Two:** 20% of the general education seats in each school will be reserved for non-neighborhood students.  
  
All student attending designated educational complexes will have first priority for remaining through high school. Students who are unsuccessful with their first choice will be assigned to their second (third, fourth) choice as space allows.  
  
Should students who are applying to Classical High School or the Advanced Academic Program participate in the student assignment process?  
Students who are applying to Classical High School or the Advanced Academic Program should participate in the student assignment process. If they do not participate and are subsequently not admitted to the desired school or advanced program, they will be eligible only for available general education seats.  
  
What happens when a child moves during the school year?  
If a child is enrolled in a neighborhood school in Providence and moves to another neighborhood within Providence, that child must be assigned to the neighborhood school closest to the new home address. This re-assignment will be based on seat availability in the new neighborhood school. Some exceptions to this rule may apply under the Student Assignment policy and/or the “No Child Left Behind Act.” Contact the Registration Center at (401) 456-9297 for more information.  
  
How are Bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) students assigned?  
Bilingual and ESL are considered “special populations” and their seats are assigned in the same manner as general education seats. However, students enrolled in the district’s English Language Learners (ELL) program may find there is no school offering the appropriate program in their neighborhood (one mile for K–6; one and one-half miles for grades 7 and 8; and three miles for high school). In this case, the “neighborhood school” is defined as the two closest schools to the student’s residence that offer a bilingual program or an ESL program. Parents, however, may choose not to have their child participate in those programs.  
  
How are Special Education students assigned?  
Special education students are also considered a “special population” and their seats are assigned in the same manner as general education seats. Special education parents and students may choose from a list of schools offering the most suitable programs consistent with their individual education plan (IEP). Special education students are placed in accordance to the policies and procedures of the assignment plan.