

New Student Assignment Plan



Seattle Public Schools is committed to providing an excellent education for each student. Our new student assignment plan is an important step we must take to ensure that every school is an excellent school. The plan will be implemented in phases beginning in the 2010-11 school year.

This flyer contains basic information about the new student assignment plan, answers to frequently asked questions, and a list of ways you can comment, including a schedule of community feedback meetings. You can learn more at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign>.

Background

To go to public school in Seattle, every student must be assigned to a school. Seattle Public Schools is responsible for making this assignment. Families have told us they want an assignment plan that is equitable, understandable, and predictable—as well as one that encourages greater family participation, brings needed services closer to students, fosters diversity, and is feasible and cost effective to implement and sustain.

On June 17, 2009, the Seattle School Board approved a new student assignment plan. It contains several changes to the current process. The new plan will be implemented in phases, beginning in the 2010-11 school year; the assignment rules for the current 2009-10 school year will remain the same.

Basic Assignment Plan Changes

Today, a student can apply for an assignment to any school. However, the process is complicated: families must choose among multiple schools, rank their choices, fill out forms, and wait to see where a child will attend. It also puts some families at a disadvantage: those who apply during a formal Open Enrollment period have priority over those who apply at other times—or who move into the District after the period closes.

The general idea behind the new plan is that students will receive an initial assignment to an *attendance area* elementary-, middle-, or high school. This assignment will be based on their address. A student can choose to apply to a school outside their attendance area; that assignment will be based on a series of tiebreakers.

If a student is currently enrolled at a school outside their attendance area, they can stay through its highest grade under a process called *grandfathering*—as long as the services they need are available at that school.

Next Steps

Seattle Public Schools is now developing attendance area boundary maps that will determine initial student assignments. The boundary maps will be presented to the School Board and the public for comment this fall. After reviewing these comments, we will submit the boundary maps—including any revisions—to the School Board for a vote on November 18, 2009.

What You Should Know

1. Seattle Public Schools is creating new attendance area boundaries for the 2010-11 school year.
2. New boundary maps will be released this fall.
3. You will have the chance to review the maps and comment on them.
4. We will review these comments. Based on this review, some revisions may be made.
5. Boundaries will be voted on by the Seattle School Board on November 18, 2009.

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Upcoming Community Meetings & Events



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Below is a list of public meetings. Please note that they include community feedback meetings where you can comment on the new attendance area boundary maps and the new student assignment plan. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to newassign@seattleschools.org and by postal mail to Seattle School Board, P.O. Box 34165, MS 11-010, Seattle, WA, 98124-1165.

Event	Date/Time	Location
School Board Workshop: Proposed Attendance Area Boundaries	Tuesday, October 6 4:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134
Community Feedback Meeting	Monday, October 12 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	McClure Middle School 1915 1st Ave W · Seattle, WA 98119
Community Feedback Meeting	Tuesday, October 13 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Aki Kurose Middle School 3928 S Graham Street · Seattle, WA 98118
Community Feedback Meeting	Wednesday, October 14 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Ballard High School 1418 NW 65 th Street · Seattle, WA 98117
Community Feedback Meeting	Thursday, October 15 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	West Seattle High School 3000 California Ave SW · Seattle, WA 98116
Community Feedback Meeting	Saturday, October 17 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Mercer Middle School 1600 S Columbian Way · Seattle, WA 98108
Community Feedback Meeting	Saturday, October 17 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Mercer Middle School 1600 S Columbian Way · Seattle, WA 98108
School Board Workshop Attendance Area Boundaries	Tuesday, November 3 4:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134
School Board Meeting: Introduction of Attendance Area Boundaries	Wednesday, November 4 6:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134
Community Information Meeting	Thursday, November 5 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Roosevelt High School 1410 NE 66th St · Seattle, WA 98115
Community Information Meeting	Saturday, November 7 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Rainier Beach High School 8815 Seward Park Ave S · Seattle, WA 98118
School Board Public Hearing: Attendance Area Boundaries	Monday, November 9 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134
School Board Meeting: Action On Attendance Area Boundaries	Wednesday, November 18 6:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134

Interpretation Services Will Be Available At All Meetings