

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



DENNIS J. HERRERA
City Attorney

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

ANDREW SHEN
Deputy City Attorney

DIRECT DIAL: (415) 554-4780
E-MAIL: andrew.shen@sfgov.org

May 13, 2010

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Attached is the City Attorney's summary and title for a proposed local initiative measure. In preparing this title, the City Attorney makes no representation regarding the merits or legality of the proposed legislation. Nor does the City Attorney verify or confirm any factual or legal assertion made in the proposal. The title is presented as a "true and impartial statement of the purpose of the proposed measure." Elections Code § 9203.

Very truly yours,

DENNIS J. HERRERA
City Attorney

Andrew Shen
Deputy City Attorney

SAN FRANCISCO
FILED
2010 MAY 13 PM 3:33
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM

In San Francisco, parents may apply for their children to attend any San Francisco Unified School District ("SFUSD") school. If a particular school does not have space for those children, SFUSD uses a student assignment system ("system") to place them. SFUSD began using its current system in 2002-2003, and this system will continue to apply to placements for the 2010-2011 school year. In March 2010, SFUSD adopted a new system that will place students for the 2011-2012 and following school years.

One of the goals of the current system is to create a diverse student body at every school. The current system examines several factors about each student, such as socioeconomic status, English proficiency, and level of academic achievement. The current system also considers whether students live within the attendance area of the school they wish to attend but does not guarantee placement in a local school.

The new system similarly seeks to create diversity. It also does not guarantee placement in a nearby school, but for elementary and middle schools, it does consider whether students live in a school's attendance area. For high school placement, the new system does not prioritize students living near the school they wish to attend.

The proposed measure would make it non-binding City policy that:

- all students have the opportunity to attend a quality neighborhood school;
- the proximity of a student's home to the assigned school should be the highest priority in SFUSD's student assignment system, after assigning siblings to the same school; and
- SFUSD should provide students with the opportunity to attend schools with language immersion or other special programs, even if those schools are not located near their homes.

WORD COUNT: 285 (allowable = 500)

SAN FRANCISCO
FILED
2010 MAY 13 PM 3:33
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS