

Ballot Simplification Committee - DRAFT for Consideration on Monday, March 21, 2011
Student Assignment System *(working title only, subject to change)*

The Way It Is Now:

In San Francisco, parents may apply for their children to attend any school in the San Francisco Unified School District ("School District"). If a school does not have space for all applicants, the School District admits students based on certain priorities.

For elementary schools, the School District considers several factors, including – in order of priority – whether older siblings attend the same school, whether the student lives in an area with low-performing schools, and whether the student lives nearby.

All elementary schools feed into designated middle schools. If they prefer another middle school, parents may request one. For such requests, the School District generally considers the same factors as for elementary schools, in the same priority.

For high school, the School District does not make any initial assignments. Parents may apply for their children to attend any school, and the School District considers – in order of priority – whether older siblings attend the same school and whether the student lives in an area with low-performing schools.

Parents may apply for their children to attend schools with language programs and the School District sorts their requests according to similar priorities, but the School District imposes additional eligibility requirements.

The Proposal:

Proposition ____ would make it City policy that:

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

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to make it City policy that the School District's student assignment system should place a higher priority on placing students in schools near their homes and allow students the opportunity to attend schools with language immersion or other special programs even if not near their homes.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to adopt this declaration of City policy.

word count: 352 [suggested word limit: 300]