

**Ballot Simplification Committee – WORKING DRAFT, Continued until Thursday, August 4, 2011**  
**School District Student Assignment System** (*working title only, subject to change*)

**The Way It Is Now:**

The San Francisco Unified School District (School District) has established an assignment system for its students.

Parents may apply for their children to attend any school in the 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, in order of priority, whether:

- older siblings attend the same school,
- the student lives nearby in the school's attendance area and attends a School District pre-kindergarten school in the area,
- the student lives in an area of the city with low-performing schools the lowest average test scores, and
- the student lives nearby in the school's attendance area;
- ~~and~~
- ~~the student lives in an area of the City where the schools do not have enough space for all students living in that area to attend.~~

**Comment [nw1]:** The measure is based on the students who live in the census tracts, not the schools in the area.

**Comment [nw2]:** Students have to live in the attendance area; not just near the school

~~For the 2011-2012 school year, parents were required to apply for their children to attend a middle school. Children received middle school assignments according to the same priorities that apply to high school assignments, as described below. For middle school assignments for the 2012-2013 through 2016-2017 school years, parents may apply for their children to attend any school in the School District. If a school does not have space for all applicants, the School District admits students based on certain priorities.~~

**Comment [nw3]:** The process for 2011-12 will be over by the time this measure is on the ballot. Deleting it may make it less confusing.

~~For the 2012-2013 through 2016-2017 school years, the School District plans instead to have adopted a policy that considers, in order of priority, whether:~~

- older siblings attend the same school,
- the student's elementary school is a designated feeder school for the middle school, and

- the student lives in an area of the city with ~~low-performing schools~~the lowest average test scores.

For the 2017-2018 and following school years, the School District has adopted a policy that plans to use another assignment system for middle schools that would send assigns students from each elementary school to a designated middle school. If parents prefer a different middle school, they may request one. For such requests, the School District considers, in order of priority, whether:

- older siblings attend the same school,
- the student lives in an area with the lowest average test scores.

~~the School District generally will consider the same factors as for elementary schools, in the same priority.~~

For high schools, the School District does not make any initial assignments. Parents must-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
- the student lives in an area of the city with ~~low-performing schools~~the lowest average test scores.

Parents may apply for their children to attend schools with language immersion or other special programs. In some cases, The School District imposes additional eligibility requirements for those programs.

The School District is a governmental agency separate from the City.

### **The Proposal:**

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would make it City policy to encourage the School District to ensure that:

- all students 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 located near their homes.

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want to make it City policy to encourage the School District to give the highest priority to assigning students to schools near their homes, after placing siblings in the same school.

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

word count: 485 [suggested word limit: 300]

Words You Should Know:

**Attendance Area** – geographic borders drawn around elementary schools throughout the San Francisco for the purposes of student assignment. Middle and high schools do not have attendance areas/geographical borders.

**Lowest Average Test Scores** – Census tracts in which students with the lowest 20% of test scores across the City live.

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