

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Middle and High School Choice FAQs for Placements in the 2018-19 School Year

Please see [www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice) for more general information.

### General Questions:

*Why didn't my student get into their top choice?*

A student who is not accepted to their first choice, was either not selected during the lottery (if it is a lottery school) or their composite score did not rank high enough (if it was a school with entrance criteria).

*Why can't my student go to their zoned high school?*

There are no zoned schools at the high school level. Placement at all high schools is determined by the school choice process or through separate charter school lotteries.

*Why can't my student go to their zone middle school?*

Some parts of Baltimore City have zoned middle schools. If you live in one of these areas, your student can attend their zoned school. If you do not live in an area with a zoned middle school, your student must be placed through the school choice process.

*Can a school accept my student directly?*

Some schools have a separate acceptance process, including some charter schools. In those cases the school can issue acceptance. In addition, a student can be accepted from a waitlist. In both cases the school will contact you directly.

*What happens if my student has a sibling already attending a school?*

Sibling preference is considered only at the middle school level, and is not considered at entrance criteria schools. Having a sibling at a school increases the likelihood of placement, but does not guarantee acceptance.

*What is the "decline statement"?*

The decline statement provides written notification to City Schools that a family does not intend to accept the offer of placement at a given school. Signing the statement indicates the parent/guardian understands that the student's seat will be given to another student.

The decline statement should be submitted to the Office of Enrollment, Choice and Transfer if the student is declining a seat and completing an updated choice application, was accepted to and wishes to attend a school with a separate application process or will not be attending City Schools next year.

*What happens if my student will be attending a private school next year?*

State law requires City Schools to keep a student on roll until the private school contacts us to inform us of the student's enrollment. This typically happens over the summer. Your student will remain on roll at their placement school until we hear from the private school.

*What is P-TECH?*

P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools) is a unique school model for students interested in a career in technology. Students commit to a six-year during which they complete high school, earn an

associate in arts degree from Baltimore City Community College tuition-free, and have first consideration for a job with an industry-leading partner and an average starting salary of \$50,000.

*When can I submit my application for the 2018-19 School Year?*

Now. Applications for the first round of the choice process were due by January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Lottery:**

*How are students assigned to schools with lotteries?*

A lottery means that students are selected at random from among those who applied to the school. Students are placed based on their lottery ranking.

*How are lotteries conducted?*

Students who choose schools that use lotteries for admission are assigned a number, generated at random by computer, and then put in order according to that number.

**Entrance Criteria:**

*How are students assigned to schools with entrance criteria?*

Students are ranked in order by composite score. The available seats at these schools are filled with the highest-qualified students. After a school fills, the next 50 highest qualified students are placed on the wait list. **Please note: Because of the popularity of the schools, Baltimore City College, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and the Advanced Academics program at Roland Park reach capacity before all qualified students can be offered a seat. If your student qualifies for one of these schools but does not meet the minimum accepted composite score, we cannot place them at the school. For placement in the 2018-19 school year, the minimum accepted composite score at City was 672.60. The minimum accepted score at Poly was 701.40. The minimum accepted score at Roland Park was 382.70.**

*What are the composite scores my child needs to qualify for entrance criteria programs?*

Middle school students need minimum composite score of **355** to qualify for **Advanced Academics** programs. High school students need a minimum score of **475** to qualify for the **vocational high schools** and a minimum score of **610** is needed to qualify for **Baltimore City College, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Western High School and Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School.**

*How are composite scores calculated?*

Composite scores are determined through a combination of a student's grades, attendance and standardized test scores.

*Can my student retake the iReady test?*

In most cases, if a student took the iReady in September or October, the student will not be able to retake the test.

*Why are PARCC test scores used for some students and iReady test scores used for others?*

If students have taken the Spring 2017 PARCC (or other standardized assessment for non-BCPS students), their scores will be used in their composite score calculation. For students in grades 5 and 8 that do not have PARCC scores, i-Ready scores will be used.

**Updated Choice**

*What happens if we want a new school option?*

Students should complete an updated middle or high school choice application if they were not accepted into any of their original choices, missed the deadline to submit their original application or wish to decline their placement and select from school options that are still available. Updated school choice applications are available online at [www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice).

*What is the choice deadline?*

Updated choice applications should be completed and returned to the Office of Enrollment, Choice and Transfer no later than April 20, 2018.

*What if I have questions about the results of the school choice process?*

Current City Schools students should meet with their school choice liaison to discuss the outcomes of the choice process. Students who are new to City Schools or those who have already met with their school choice liaison but still have questions may call the Office of Enrollment, Choice and Transfer at 443-984-2000 or visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice) to request a records review.

**Waitlist:**

*Will my student be accepted from the waitlist?*

When a seat becomes available at a school, that school contacts the next student on their wait list to offer them that seat. Please note that this is not common, and families may not be notified of an available space until the upcoming school year.

*How long is a waitlist active?*

For one school year, after that school year you must re-apply to the school.

**Special Education:**

*My student has an IEP; does that affect the choice process?*

No, unless the student is in a specialized program – this placement has its own choice process through the Office of Specialized Services.