

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is Public School Choice?

As the Dallas Independent School District seeks to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for college and career, Public School Choice will be a mechanism for growing the range of options so that all Dallas ISD students can attend a “**best-fit school.**”

A “best-fit school” is a school where educators can more meaningfully and deeply engage students by **tapping into their specific interests, aspirations, and preferred learning styles.** Choice Schools will showcase a single, school-wide “**anchor model**” around which all teaching and learning happens, such as a Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) model, a performing and visual arts model, or a Montessori model. In this sense, Public School Choice can be a game-changer for many students. It can change the lens through which they look at their own education.

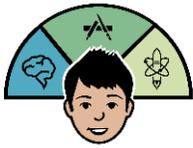
What are some examples of the types of school-wide choice anchor models?

- Montessori schools
- International Baccalaureate (IB) schools
- Single-gender schools
- Early college schools
- Personalized learning schools
- Military academies
- Leadership academies
- Schools for STEM, visual and performing arts, business/entrepreneurship, government/world affairs, and humanities
- Dual-language schools

What are the types of Public School Choice offerings?

Moving forward, all Public School Choice offerings in Dallas ISD will be formally placed under the following categories:

- **Magnet Schools:** This is a pre-existing list. The schools will stay the same as well as the academic entry requirements. The success of the district’s Magnet offerings is a key driver in the district’s commitment to expand a “best-fit” school for every child in Dallas ISD without academic entry requirements.
- **Transformation Schools (Choice School):** These are start-up campuses that design and implement a new school-wide Choice model. They do not have academic or parental entry requirements and showcase district-wide open enrollment procedures. They will open in previously vacant buildings, new school buildings, or in non-traditional spaces such as a co-location with a community college.
- **Innovation Schools (Choice School):** These are existing neighborhood schools that re-purpose the existing campus into a school-wide Choice model. They do not have academic or parental entry requirements. They stay in their existing facilities with current staff and continue to enroll students from their traditional attendance zones, maintaining their traditional neighborhood identities.



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Choice Programs: These are small scale choice programs that exist within a school. They are not school-wide models and not every student in the school participates. They may or may not have entry requirements.

TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS

- BRAND NEW CAMPUS
- OPEN ENROLLMENT ACROSS THE DISTRICT
- VACANT BUILDING, NEW BUILDING OR NON-TRADITIONAL SPACE

TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS NOW OPEN

- D.A. HULCY STEAM MIDDLE SCHOOL
- INNOVATION, DESIGN, ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY AT JAMES W. FANNIN (PERSONALIZED LEARNING MODEL)
- EDUARDO MATA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A MONTESSORI CAMPUS

TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS OPENING AUGUST 2016

- SOLAR PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AT JAMES B. BONHAM (STEAM MODEL)

TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS OPENING AUGUST 2017

- CITYLAB HIGH SCHOOL, LOCATION TBD (URBAN PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MODEL)

CHOICE SCHOOLS

- TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION SCHOOLS
- SCHOOL-WIDE MODEL
- NO ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
- 35 SCHOOLS BY YEAR 2020
- IDENTIFIED THROUGH ANNUAL PSC COMPETITIVE PROCESS

MORE CHOICE SCHOOLS WILL BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE 3.0 PROCESS FOR AN AUGUST 2017 (INNOVATION SCHOOLS) OR AUGUST 2018 (TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS) LAUNCH.

INNOVATION SCHOOLS

- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD CAMPUS
- SERVES TRADITIONAL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES
- STAYS IN EXISTING FACILITIES

INNOVATION SCHOOLS NOW OPEN

- WILLIAM L. CABELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PERSONALIZED LEARNING MODEL)
- DAN D. ROGERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PERSONALIZED LEARNING MODEL)
- THOMAS C. MARSH MIDDLE SCHOOL (PERSONALIZED LEARNING MODEL)
- BRYAN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL (LEADERSHIP MODEL)

INNOVATION SCHOOLS LAUNCHING AUGUST 2016

- MARTIN WEISS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LEADERSHIP MODEL)

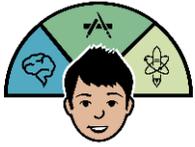
MAGNET SCHOOLS

- SCHOOL-WIDE MODEL
- ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
 - PRE-EXISTING LIST
- NOT IDENTIFIED THROUGH PSC COMPETITIVE PROCESS

WWW.DALLASISD.ORG/MAGNETS

CHOICE PROGRAMS

- MAY OR MAY NOT BE SCHOOL-WIDE MODEL
- MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
- HOUSED AT NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS
 - NOT IDENTIFIED THROUGH PSC COMPETITIVE PROCESS



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How many new Choice Schools will be launched?

By the year 2020, Dallas ISD hopes to have launched 35 Choice Schools that reflect student, parent, educator and community demand. This includes both Transformation and Innovation Schools. Out of the 35 schools, our estimate is that approximately one-fourth will be *Transformation Schools* and three-fourths will be *Innovation Schools*.

It is important to note, however, that the number of Choice Schools also depends on the district's fund balance and the status of its Bond proposal. If, for example, the Bond does not pass, then the district would have to scale back the number of *Transformation Schools* it plans to launch by 2020.

Will new Choice Schools have attendance boundaries?

Innovation Schools will maintain their traditional neighborhood attendance zones, serving primarily the students within their boundaries.

Transformation Schools will be open enrollment schools, accepting students from across the district.

Why did the district decide to implement Public School Choice?

"Best-Fit Schools": Students need more access to schools that fit their individual needs.

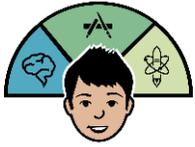
21st Century Preparation: As Dallas continues to grow and transform, so must its public education system. Thriving in the future requires the ability to think critically and creatively, solve problems with no obvious solutions, make judgments about alternative points of view, communicate effectively, work collaboratively with people from diverse backgrounds, and navigate unprecedented levels of information. Choice Schools, by tapping into student interests, learning styles, and aspirations, can help produce these desired outcomes.

Equity: Dallas ISD has some of the best *Magnet Schools* in the country, largely because *Magnet Schools* tap into what makes kids tick. Unfortunately, admission criteria and space limitations preclude many students from attending. Over the coming years, the Dallas ISD Office of Transformation and Innovation will help expand Public School Choice options for all students, regardless of their academic abilities or geographic constraints. All kids deserve a "best-fit school," not just the high-scoring kids.

Diversity: *Transformation Schools* will be new, district-run, open enrollment Choice Schools. If *Transformation Schools* offer attractive instructional options to families from all backgrounds, are open to all students across the entire district regardless of academic ability, and provide free transportation, you open up the possibility of students voluntarily moving from all areas of the city to attend school together. This could lead to more racially, geographically, and economically diverse schools than we have today.

Which schools are in the current cohort of Public School Choice?

The cohort launching in August 2015 is: Cabell Elementary (Personalized Learning *Innovation School*); Rogers Elementary (Personalized Learning *Innovation School*); Marsh Middle (Personalized Learning *Innovation School*); Bryan Adams High School (Leadership *Innovation School*); D.A.



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Hulcy STEAM Middle School (*Transformation School*); Innovation, Design, Entrepreneurship Academy at James W. Fannin (*Transformation School*).

In August 2016, Solar Preparatory School for Girls at James B. Bonham will open. More schools will be identified through the Public School Choice 3.0 competitive process for an August 2016 launch.

The Choice School 2.0 cohort, selected in March 2016, is Martin Weiss Elementary (Leadership *Innovation School*) and CityLab (name pending board approval, location TBD)

Additional schools that possess “choice-like” attributes that pre-date the formal competitive process may be identified as Choice Schools as the Office of Transformation and Innovation conducts the Public School Choice Categorization Framework process (see page 10).

FINANCE

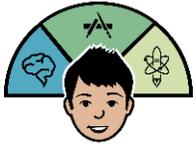
How will Choice Schools impact funding for neighborhood schools? Will they pull funding away from neighborhood schools?

Choice Schools will not pull funding away from neighborhood schools. Public School Choice is largely designed to empower neighborhood schools that wish to implement an anchor model that is aligned with staff, student, and community interest. Approximately three-fourths of the Choice Schools that launch (and receive funding) will be existing neighborhood schools that voluntarily decide to become an *Innovation School* through the competitive proposal process. Also, it is important to note that the district has launched its Public School Choice initiative during a time when its fund balance is strong and has made it a key priority in its Bond proposal. The Public School Choice selection process will be another voluntary pathway by which neighborhood schools can bring additional funds and receive greater levels of budget autonomy.

Transformation Schools will constitute about one-fourth of the Choice Schools that launch and receive funding. It is important to note that *Transformation Schools* will be housed in buildings that do not currently have an active school -- vacant school buildings, new school buildings in the Bond package, and non-traditional spaces. No neighborhood school will be turned into a *Transformation School*. With a growing student population, *Transformation Schools* also tap into the district's priorities to build new schools to alleviate overcrowding in an equitable and strategic manner. *Transformation Schools* balance the need to ensure equity in access for all students as well as scaling learning environments that meet 21st Century college and career readiness demands.

Is Public School Choice financially sustainable over the long term?

Public School Choice will be financially sustainable over the long term. Choice Schools will not be “boutique schools” with small enrollment numbers which are not financially sustainable over long periods of time. Instead, Choice Schools will have enrollment numbers ranging from 500 to 2000 students which are financially self-sustaining on per pupil allotments.



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Innovation Schools are existing neighborhood schools that are already financially sustainable. They will receive a one-time fund for planning year and start-up needs to support their redesign under a Choice model. When combined with greater levels of school autonomy and cost sharing partnerships (i.e., the Early College model), the proposal and implementation process is designed to ensure sustainability in programmatic costs as well.

Transformation Schools, like other new schools in Dallas ISD, will phase in a few grade levels at a time to ensure quality implementation. After an initial opening with 150-200 students, *Transformation Schools* will grow to have enrollment numbers of 500 students or more, which are financially stable schools. The goal for all *Transformation Schools* is that they grow in size to become financially sustainable on per pupil allotments.

Are Transformation Schools more expensive in the early years? (i.e. cost per pupil)

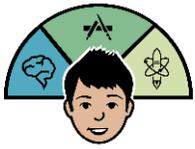
Like all new schools Dallas ISD has launched in the past, new *Transformation Schools* will be temporarily “in the red” in their early years given that the campus is phasing in its enrollment. For the first few years, there will not be enough students attending the campus to cover all of the expenses associated with opening a new school from the ground up. As such, in the early years, *Transformation Schools* will appear as if they are “more expensive,” just like the launch of new schools in the past that have ended up becoming financially sustainable once the student enrollment grows out to capacity. By year 3 or 4, *Transformation Schools* are expected to become financially sustainable on per pupil allotments. The district will regularly ensure that once *Transformation Schools* are fully enrolled, comparability across campuses maintain and reflect equity in access and allocations.

Is Public School Choice a grant to bring more programs to an existing campus?

Public School Choice is not meant to be a monetary grant for additional programming. In other words, it is not an avenue to add one or more programs at an existing school. To go through this process, *Innovation School* applicant teams need to be proposing a “strategic redesign” of their traditional school. We are looking for a single anchor school model around which all teaching and learning happens, rather than just a few additional programs.

Our school has ideas about different programs to implement at our school. Why is that not funded and/or being cut?

Many of these initiatives lie outside of the Public School Choice process and the Office of Transformation and Innovation. Any decision to fund and/or cut programs within traditional schools that are not Choice campuses are made on a case-by-case basis through the traditional budget-making process. It is important to note that the district regularly prioritizes programs and initiatives within schools that are having a positive impact on students and staff, rather than those that are not proven to be effective.



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APPLYING TO A CHOICE SCHOOL

Are there any entry requirements to attend a Choice School?

There are no entry requirements to attend a Choice School. For example, that means no minimum academic criteria, student auditions, or mandatory parent meetings.

How will enrollment work in Choice Schools?

Enrollment into *Transformation Schools* happens through a blind, randomized, computerized lottery. Students must complete and submit their *Transformation School* application to the Office of Transformation and Innovation by the January deadline.

Innovation Schools will continue to primarily enroll students from their traditional attendance zones.

Who can apply to attend a Choice School?

Transformation Schools are open to all students that reside within Dallas ISD boundaries. This includes students living within Dallas ISD boundaries but not currently attending Dallas ISD schools.

Innovations Schools primarily serve students living within their traditional attendance boundaries, though if space allows, principals may allow non-zoned students to apply in accordance with regulations outlined by the Office of Transformation and Innovation. If applicable, this process will be outlined by the campus in the Spring.

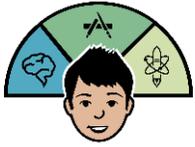
How does student selection work for Transformation Schools?

To be accepted into a *Transformation School*, students must complete and submit an application to the Office of Transformation and Innovation by the January deadline. Applications can be completed online (mobile friendly) or on paper and are available in Spanish and English. A blind, randomized, computerized selection will be conducted. **No student academic information will be considered in this process.** Students will either be accepted into the school or placed on the waitlist. Sibling preference will be given.

What happens if a student is placed on the waitlist for a Transformation School?

When the number of applicants exceeds the number of available seats in a *Transformation School*, an ordered waitlist is created during the selection process. This order is determined by the same randomized computer selection that determines accepted students. If a student accepted into a *Transformation School* declines his/her seat or fails to respond by the designated deadline, the next student on the waitlist will be offered the available seat.

How and when will a student be notified of acceptance into a Transformation School?



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Applicants who have been accepted to a *Transformation School* will be notified by mail and email using the information provided on the application by the first week of March.

For the Transformation School application, can I give my completed application to my child's guidance counselor or teacher and have them mail or hand deliver it to the Office of Transformation and Innovation?

Parents may ask school personnel or other entities for assistance but should follow up with the Office of Transformation and Innovation to make sure their application was received. It is the parent's responsibility to guarantee that their child's application is received by the set deadline.

Can I improve my chances of acceptance into the Transformation School by submitting more than one application?

Only one application per student will be accepted. Additional applications for any student will be removed from the selection process.

Will Transformation Schools "cherry-pick" the highest-performing students away from neighborhood schools?

Transformation Schools will absolutely not cherry-pick students. Students will not be hand selected in any way from any school. This goes against the central tenet of Public School Choice. All students will be eligible to apply, regardless of academic ability. Academic performance is not considered in the application and enrollment process in any way, shape, or form nor is it a condition for remaining at a Choice School. Students at a Choice campus who struggle at any point are expected to be regularly supported for success.

ATTENDING A CHOICE SCHOOL

Is transportation provided to Choice Schools?

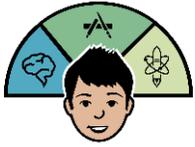
Transportation is provided to Choice Schools under certain parameters.

Innovation School transportation will remain the same for its initial year as a Choice School. Zoned students will continue to receive transportation as always.

Transformation School transportation will be provided for students residing more than two miles from the school and living within Dallas ISD boundaries. If accepted and eligible, students will be notified of their respective pick-up points prior to the start of the school year. Pick-up and drop off locations will be Dallas ISD schools. Students are responsible for their own transportation to the pick-up points.

If attending a Transformation School, can students participate in extracurricular activities at their home school?

UIL rules permit students who attend a *Transformation high school* to have eligibility at their enrolled high school (*Transformation School*) or their zoned neighborhood high school. A student is prohibited from representing more than one UIL school during the academic year. Students should talk to their *Transformation School* principal for clarification.



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How big will Choice Schools be?

Choice Schools will vary in size, depending on the individual school building's capacity, which differs from building to building. The goal is always to have a fully utilized school building where every student participates in the Choice anchor model. Choice Schools will not be "boutique schools" -- rather, they will be, on average, as large as any traditional school in the district to ensure financial sustainability.

Will a student be asked to leave if there is a discipline problem?

The dismissal process for *Innovation Schools* will be similar to traditional Dallas ISD schools. Students dismissed from *Transformation Schools*, similar to *Magnet Schools*, will return to their neighborhood school. Dismissal from Choice Schools depends on the situation and the specific student and principal, and will always be treated as a last resort after all other options have been explored and attempted.

If my child struggles, will they be counseled out?

"Counseling out" will not be a standard practice nor will it be in the vocabulary of Choice Schools. At Choice Schools, the goal is to tap into specific students' interests, aspirations and learning styles regardless of academic ability. We believe that all students, if provided with high-quality, "best-fit" instruction and the appropriate supports, can succeed in any Choice School.

How does staffing work at Choice Schools?

Transformation Schools will be entirely new from the ground up, so there will not be any existing staff. As such, leadership teams of *Transformation Schools* will be able to hire and select their own staff.

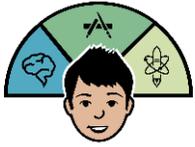
Innovation Schools will have and maintain existing staff. Leadership teams of *Innovation Schools* will be required to communicate the repurposed programming to all staff members along with ensuring staff buy-in within the Public School Choice Proposal. If a staff member chooses to stay at the repurposed campus, she/he will be allowed to remain and receive the necessary professional development. If a staff member is uncomfortable with the new approach and would like to transfer elsewhere, the district will allow her/him the opportunity to apply for other positions in the district.

What if my child receives special education or English Language Learning (ELL) services?

If accepted to any Choice School, the individual needs of the student will be addressed, such as continuing to receive special education or ELL services. It is the policy of Dallas ISD to afford equal opportunity in education to all students. Students receiving special education or ELL services are given the same consideration in the selection process as all other students.

If I am zoned to an Innovation School, what do I need to do?

Students zoned to an *Innovation School* do not need to do anything different from the standard Dallas ISD enrollment process. All students living within the attendance boundary for their *Innovation School* will always have a seat at that school at any point in the year. They will not need to submit an application.



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Can Innovation Schools accept non-zoned students?

If space allows, *Innovation School* principals may accept non-zoned students through the Dallas ISD transfer process or the Office of Transformation and Innovation selection process.

BECOMING A CHOICE SCHOOL

Are all schools going to become Choice School?

Not all Dallas ISD schools will become a Choice School. In fact, the vast majority will not. By 2020, the goal is to have 35 new Choice Schools, which is a relatively small percentage of the total 224 schools in Dallas ISD. Out of the 35 Choice Schools, our estimate is that approximately one-fourth will be Transformation Schools and three-fourths will be Innovation Schools, which means that most Choice Schools will be existing campuses rather than new campuses.

Can all neighborhood schools apply to become an Innovation School?

All neighborhood schools can apply to become an *Innovation School*, except for schools currently under an “Improvement Required” designation from the state. Once schools change their “Improvement Required” status, they will be eligible to apply to become an *Innovation School*.

How do you ensure community buy-in for the Choice Schools?

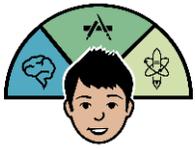
Evidence of community buy-in (staff, parent, partnerships, etc.) is a core component of the competitive proposal process. In fact, there are specific elements in place throughout the selection process, such as the Interview Round, which require the Applicant Team (which must involve teachers) to provide evidence of stakeholder buy-in.

It is essential that proposals, especially those for *Innovation Schools*, reflect strong staff and community support for the plan to become a Choice School. It is highly unlikely that a proposal would get approved if it were a top-down decision made only by a select few on a campus.

What types of support are offered if a school is selected through the competitive process?

Academic Support: For applications that are approved, the Office of Transformation and Innovation will work closely with subject matter experts in other district departments, such as School Leadership and

Teaching and Learning, to provide tailored support to each school leadership team during their planning year (i.e., designing workshops, facilitating coaching sessions, identifying local exemplars, curating national models, organizing site visits, etc.). Moreover, the district will provide tailored support as Choice Schools prepare for official launch and beyond (i.e., assisting with staff recruitment, conducting beta tests of proposed instructional models, assisting with resource procurement, and coordinating start-up operations). The type and intensity of district support will depend largely on the proposed model itself and the needs of the school leadership team.



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Financial Support: Schools that are approved will receive temporary financial support to get the Choice model up and running. This includes planning year, start-up, and sustainability funds for *Transformation Schools* and planning year and start-up funds for *Innovation Schools*.

Awareness, Communications, and Marketing: Choice Schools will be placed on the district website (www.dallasisd.org/choice) and the Office of Transformation and Innovation will assist with awareness, communications, and marketing materials.

Autonomies: Dallas ISD's Public School Choice initiative has created an opportunity for the district to begin formally piloting schools with greater levels of school autonomy in exchange for greater accountability and results. Choice Schools, by design, require the district to decentralize its approach towards managing schools in some regards so educators can pilot and scale new approaches with resources, instruction, staffing, and schedules in order to accelerate student achievement. Going forward, *Innovation and Transformation Schools* may be granted varying levels of autonomy across specific categories (budget, schedule, curriculum, etc.) through the Public School Choice competitive proposal process. As individual Choice Schools continue to demonstrate greater levels of success, they will become eligible to have access to greater levels of autonomies. Autonomies will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and may or may not be granted as part of the overall proposal.

Who can apply to open a Transformation School?

- An Applicant Team made up of existing Dallas ISD employees with a proposed principal OR
- An Applicant Team made up of a mix of district employees and out-of-district educators* who are looking to launch a *Transformation School* with a proposed principal OR
- An Applicant Team made up of out-of-district educators* with a proposed principal who are looking to design and launch a *Transformation School* in Dallas ISD

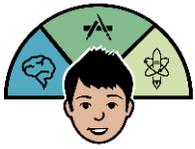
**Out-of-district Educators: Professionals who are formally certified (possess valid licenses/certifications) to teach and/or lead within a K-12 school. It is expected that educators who plan to move from another state to launch a Choice School in Dallas ISD meet all Texas Education Agency certification requirements and become Dallas ISD employees prior to official school launch.*

Who can apply to launch an Innovation School?

- Only an existing Dallas ISD neighborhood school leadership team can apply for its current school to become an *Innovation School*.
- Applying leadership teams must have six people, including the principal and two current teachers on the campus.
- Applicant Teams for *Innovation Schools* are required to have their divisional Assistant Superintendent endorse their Letter of Intent (LOI) in order to be eligible to apply.

Some current campuses possessed "Choice-like" attributes prior to the Public School Choice competitive application process. Are they considered Choice Schools?

The district recognizes that there are several non-magnets that possess "Choice-like" attributes (i.e. schools with dual-language programs, schools that have scaled innovative approaches to teaching and learning under an anchor model, etc.). The Office of Transformation and Innovation has developed a pathway for existing non-magnet "choice-like" options to go through a voluntary Choice School review. This process



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is outside of the competitive proposal process, allowing such options to be formally considered as part of the district's Public School Choice initiative.

The ***Public School Choice (PSC) Categorization Framework*** is a holistic approach to identify existing Choice offerings that predate the competitive application process in Dallas ISD. It is essential that pre-existing Choice options meet the same expectations as those selected through the current competitive proposal process so that all Dallas ISD stakeholders can feel assured that the district has vetted for the highest quality. Specifically, the *Categorization Framework* process will be used to formally identify, assess, and ultimately categorize existing Choice Schools and Choice Programs as part of the district's initiative.

Can traditional comprehensive neighborhood schools propose grade-level, attendance boundary, and/or enrollment changes?

The Public School Choice process is not a way for traditional neighborhood schools to expand grade levels, change existing attendance boundaries, or change existing enrollment policies. *Innovation Schools* are expected to maintain their traditional neighborhood identities and boundaries.

Will entire feeder patterns of schools be approved at the same time?

Public School Choice is a campus-by-campus initiative driven by the stakeholders at the campus (i.e., principal, parents, staff, etc.), not a feeder pattern initiative. Given that several years of careful planning and implementation is required, and given the need to ensure an equitable distribution of Choice Schools across the district, entire feeder patterns of schools will likely not be approved as a package. However, over the long-term as Public School Choice continues to grow and more campuses are selected year-over-year, vertical alignment of choice models will most likely develop, assuming that the demand exists.

Are schools applying for the district to come in and launch the Choice model at their campus?

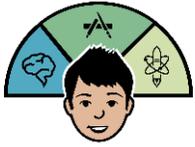
The central district office will play an important supporting role but will not be in the driver's seat if schools are selected to launch the Choice model at their campus. Public School Choice is a ground-up effort. The campus needs to drive the planning and implementation.

Are existing neighborhood schools allowed to introduce new academic entry requirements?

Existing neighborhood schools wanting to become *Innovation Schools* are not allowed to introduce new entry requirements or maintain any existing requirements. Public School Choice is designed to create more options for students regardless of academic ability. Only existing *Magnet Schools* can keep their existing academic entry requirements.

Which types of schools stand the best chance of making it through the selection processes to become an Innovation School?

The selection process will be rigorous and competitive. Schools that stand the best chance of approval will be those that have a prior track record of success and already have the right foundations to launch a redesign under an anchor model. This means having a trend in student growth, a data-driven culture, strong evidence of buy-in, and a sophisticated level of instruction, collaboration, and professional development.



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What if a proposed Transformation School principal is not a current Dallas ISD principal?

As part of the formal Public School Choice selection process, proposed principals who are not current Dallas ISD principals must make it through the Dallas ISD principal selection process. This is a required stage in the formal selection process for Lead Applicants who are not current principals but are proposing to become one at a *Transformation School*.

Are Choice Programs required to go through the competitive application process?

Choice Programs are smaller programs within a traditional neighborhood school and do not have to go through the competitive proposal process in order to launch – only Transformation and Innovation School proposals (which will be school-wide) will be required to go through the competitive process; *Magnet Schools* are already a pre-existing list and will not be part of the competitive process. The decision to launch a new *Choice Program* will continue to be a traditional decision that lives with School Leadership (Principals, Executive Directors, and Assistant Superintendents) and must be budgeted through traditional processes.

What if I am currently a teacher in another district who is proposing to become a Teacher Leader within Dallas ISD as part of our Transformation School proposal?

Other out-of-district educators who are currently not Dallas ISD employees must also comply with the district's selection process and contractual requirements for various roles (e.g. Assistant Principals, Coaches, Teachers, etc.).

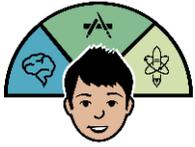
Can outside organizations, like a charter management organization, come in and “take over” a Dallas ISD school via Public School Choice? Do vouchers play a role?

Public School Choice has nothing to do with vouchers or charter schools. Dallas ISD will run all of its Choice Schools with Dallas ISD staff and Dallas ISD students. We will not outsource the management of any of our Choice Schools to an external organization, including charter operators. That is true for *Magnet Schools*, *Transformation and Innovation Schools*, and *Choice Programs*.

If a group of community members, parents, or non-profit organizations (i.e., museums, universities, teacher development organizations, etc.) have an idea for a Dallas ISD *Transformation School* and wish to engage in the competitive process, they will need to find an Applicant Team to partner with and sponsor their ideas throughout the proposal process. The Applicant Team, if they are not Dallas ISD employees at the time of application, must become Dallas ISD employees before the launch of the *Transformation School* (assuming they are selected through the competitive process).

Where will Transformation Schools be located? Will they be equally distributed across the district?

Transformation Schools will find homes in vacant school buildings, new school buildings that are built through future Bond programs, and non-traditional spaces (i.e., downtown office space, co-location with a community college). The goal is to have a geographically equitable distribution of *Transformation Schools* across the district. Regardless of location, they will be open enrollment to students across the district and transportation will be provided.



PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

AUTONOMIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Choice Schools will get more autonomies. What about regular schools?

Dallas ISD is currently in the process of developing and finalizing a school autonomy framework for all its schools. The goal is to implement this framework during 2015-16 school year. A draft version was presented to principals and working groups for feedback during the Spring of the 2014-15 school year.

The autonomy framework will utilize a Managed Performance Empowerment approach in which ALL schools will annually have the opportunity to access greater levels of autonomy across various aspects (scheduling, budget, assessment, operations, etc.) through a structured and formal process.

Under this approach, schools will only be able to exercise higher levels of autonomy in exchange for greater levels of performance (i.e. student achievement, SEI scores, culture and climate surveys, etc.). It is also true that a specific school could lose its ability to exercise greater levels of autonomy in various aspects and return to central mandates if it struggles to maintain positive trends for student and staff success.

How will Choice Schools be held accountable?

Traditional accountability structures (i.e., TEI, systems review, School Report Card, etc.) do not go away. However, Choice Schools will also be assessed against a new multiple measure school performance framework. This framework will incorporate existing structures along with additional indicators to ensure that each Choice School is meeting its annual goals for student and staff success and to ensure adequate support from the district regularly.

Where can I find more information about Public School Choice 3.0?

The following link provides resources and information for any applicant teams interested in submitting a proposal for Public School Choice 3.0:
<http://publicschoolchoiceapplication-dallasisd.org/>

Where can I find more information about Public School Choice?

Those with questions, concerns, or looking to find additional information may contact the Office of Transformation & Innovation:

Address: 3700 Ross Avenue, Room 102A, Dallas, TX 75204

Phone: (972) 925-3306

Website: <http://www.dallasisd.org/choice>