

## PROGRAMS

### Q. What is the difference between magnet and fundamental programs?

A. Magnet schools have a focused theme and aligned curricula in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Visual and Performing Arts, International Baccalaureate, International Studies, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Dual Language and many others.

Fundamental programs are family-oriented schools which provide a very structured environment and joint parent-teacher-student commitment to provide quality education for all students. Key features include a focus on student responsibility and self-discipline, daily homework, a dress code that exceeds that of the school district and required attendance at conferences and monthly parent meetings.

### Q. Are there any new programs for 2022-2023?

A. There is an expansion of one program, one new program, and a name change this year.

- John Hopkins MS<sup>1</sup> Center for Gifted Studies is expanding to 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- A Center for Literacy Innovation is at Midtown Academy.
- BETA changed its name to align more closely with PCCA. It is now Business, **Entertainment**, Technology Academy

### Q. I missed the DAP Fairs, how can I learn more about the different programs?

A. Start by visiting [www.pcsb.org/dap](http://www.pcsb.org/dap). This site has a guide with information about each program that you can download as well as links to each of the program websites to be able to visit and learn more. The best location to find information will be on the school's website. If schools are still offering tours, you may be able to visit the campus to learn more. That information will be on individual school sites.

### Q. How do I find my application area?

A. Go to [www.pcsb.org/zone](http://www.pcsb.org/zone) and enter your address. Your zoned middle and high school will appear. This will help you identify your application area. You can find application areas on the back page of the DAP Guide found at [www.pcsb.org/dap](http://www.pcsb.org/dap) or listed at [www.pcsb.org/Page/10037](http://www.pcsb.org/Page/10037)

### Q. Can I apply to a program if my students are already in a magnet program?

A. During the Initial Application Period (January 5- 14, 2022), you can be in a magnet program and apply for another. At any other time during the year, you would have to forfeit your magnet seat before applying.



## District Application Programs Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Does the IB program offer transportation?**

**A.** Arterial transportation is offered within the IB application area.

**Q. At what grade level does the gifted program start?**

**A.** The Centers for Gifted Studies start in first grade.

**Q. Can you only enter a magnet high school program as a freshman?**

**A.** Grade levels that would allow a student to successfully complete the program are allowed to enter. Most high school magnet programs take freshmen and sophomores. Seminole HS' CEL only accepts first-year students due to the course sequence and progression.

**Q. Do programs exist for incoming kindergartners or are they required to attend their zoned school?**

**A.** Most of our elementary DAP programs offer kindergartner seats. There are a couple of exceptions: the Centers for Gifted Studies and Literacy Innovation.

**Q. If my child is in fundamental school and I want to move them to another fundamental school, can I apply for a different program with the new year application?**

**A.** You can apply for a different fundamental program during the initial application period. Please remember that the best chance of entering any program is the entry grade level. After that, little to a few seats are offered as once you are in a program, you have that seat until you decide to leave, or your child is dismissed.

**Q. Does being in a magnet or fundamental elementary give any advantage to be accepted in a magnet or fundamental middle school?**

**A.** It does if you are in a program that has a feeder pattern priority to a middle school program. If you rank the feeder program as your top-ranked selection, you will get a feeder pattern priority.

Applying to a different magnet or fundamental program will not give a feeder pattern priority.

**Q. Are all Fundamentals schoolwide or are some program-within-a-school?**

**A.** Dunedin High and Boca Ciega High both have program-within-a school; all other fundamental programs are schoolwide.

**Q. Are getting into these programs based on a student's grades/ entrance criteria?**

**A.** It depends on which program. A students' grades are not a part of the application or selection process except for high school IB and Cambridge AICE program. The Centers for Gifted Studies and Literacy Innovation have entrance criteria.



## District Application Programs Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Can a student get into James L. Sanderlin K-8 for middle school only?**

**A.** Yes.

**Q. Do special needs children get transportation to these special programs?**

**A.** Arterial transportation to most programs, with a few exceptions (elementary and most middle school fundamental programs) is offered to families who live 2+ miles from the DAP school.

Curb to curb transportation is not offered for any District Application Program. If you have an IEP with curb-to-curb transportation and accept a DAP seat, your IEP will be amended.

**Q. As a gifted elementary school student, do you give up your gifted middle school spot if you apply for another DAP?**

**A.** You can only get the feeder pattern priority if you are in an elementary Center for Gifted Studies and select a middle school Center for Gifted Studies as your top ranked choice. If you have a child in a part-time gifted program (any zoned school), you do not get a feeder pattern priority into a middle school Center for Gifted Studies.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

**Q. Where do we complete the online application?**

**A.** Go to <https://reservation.pcsb.org> and select the District Application Program option.

**Q. If we are already in the program, do we need to reapply to remain in the program?**

**A.** No. Once you are in a program, there is no need to reapply.

**Q. When can I apply?**

**A.** The initial application period runs from 12:01 a.m. on January 5 through 5:00 p.m. on January 14, 2022. The Late Application period will open on March 22, 2022.

**Q. Is there any advantage to applying early in the application period?**

**A.** No. Applications are NOT processed on a first-come, first-served basis. All applications received during the application period, Jan. 5-14, 2022, are randomized giving applications equal treatment.



### **Q. May I apply to more than one program?**

**A.** Yes, you may apply to up to five programs in order of preference (first ranked choice is the top choice). Priority preferences will only apply to the first ranked program.

### **Q. Can I apply to any of the programs?**

**A.** No. Some programs have application areas, which are geographic locations where students must live to apply for certain programs. These areas are usually based on students' zoned schools. Some programs have unique application areas. Many programs do not have application areas and are available to students countywide. See page 19 of the DAP Guide or review the District Application Programs procedures manual at [www.pcsb.org/choice](http://www.pcsb.org/choice).

Some programs have eligibility criteria that applicants must meet (Centers for Gifted Studies, Literacy Innovation, and high school AICE & IB programs). The District Application Programs procedures manual contains the entrance criteria for each program. You can find it at [www.pcsb.org/choice](http://www.pcsb.org/choice).

#### NOTE:

- You may only apply to one of the two Center for Wellness and Medical Professions Programs at Boca Ciega High or Palm Harbor University High, the Centers Digital Learning at Gulf Beaches and Kings Highway (based on student's address), or Sandy Lane Conservatory for the Arts or Perkins.
- For application area programs, parents may only apply to the program located within the application area in which they live.

### **Q. Do any programs have academic entrance criteria?**

**A.** Only three types of programs have academic entrance criteria, all other programs do not. The Centers for Gifted Studies require gifted eligibility or an active Educational Plan (EP). The Centers of Literacy Innovation require a screening process and a passing score. The high school Cambridge AICE and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs have entrance criteria including Alg. 1 Honors and FSA or norm-referenced test scores.

### **Q. Is there any other kind of entrance criteria?**

**A.** For secondary students, there is a behavioral entrance criterion. Per school board policy, students with 10+ referrals in the past two semesters and/or any SESIRs may be determined to be ineligible.

### **Q. If we apply for a DAP, can my child lose his/her seat at the charter school?**

**A.** Applying for a DAP program will not cause your child to lose his/her seat at a charter school. However, accepting an offer forfeits the charter school seat



## District Application Programs Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. If I apply to a magnet or fundamental program, does my child lose the seat at the current school?**

**A.** No. Students do not lose their current seat by applying to one of these programs during the initial application period. The seat is surrendered for the following year only if the parent receives and accepts an invitation to a different program.

However, a student cannot end the school year in a DAP program and on another's wait list. At the end of the school year, any current DAP student will be asked if they wish to remain on the wait lists (and attend the zoned school) or remain in the program (and be removed from all wait lists except Gifted).

### **Q. If we do PVS and decide halfway through the year we want to apply to culinary at our zoned school is that an option?**

**A.** You can apply for a high school magnet program in ninth or tenth grade. You can start out in PVS and after the semester decide to apply for a different program. You would first have to enroll in the zoned school to be able to make a late application for the culinary program. You can make a late application up until Dec. 31.

### **Q. Can I apply to a program if I am not a Pinellas County resident?**

**A.** Yes, you may apply, however, you would apply using a Special Attendance Permit (SAP) and not through the Student Reservation System (SRS). SAP applications can be found on the Student Assignment Page located at [www.pcsb.org/registration](http://www.pcsb.org/registration).

SAP applications are handled by the Student Assignment Office and are on a different timeline. Notification will occur in the summer **after** the District Application Programs' Initial Application, Acceptance, and Wait List periods. Please call Student Assignment at 727.588.6210 for more information about the SAP process.

### **Q. What if I miss the Initial Application Period?**

**A.** There is a late application period that opens on March 22, 2022. You can apply at that time.

### **Q. What can I do if I have a question or problem with the application process?**

**A.** If it is a technical question about the online system, parents may contact the Tech Help center at (727) 588-6060 or email [help@pcsb.org](mailto:help@pcsb.org). For all other questions, call Student Assignment, (727) 588-6210.

## APPLICATION ISSUES

### Q. Why won't my username and password work?

A. There are several different possibilities:

- You are trying to sign in using your child's account information instead of your parent username and password (p.username).
- You have not used your account in over a year. If you have not used it in over a year, your account may have been archived. You will need to reset your password. You can do this at any PCS school by bringing in a photo id and requesting a password reset.
- It may be your browser. The Student Reservation System works best in Chrome and Firefox browsers.
- You may need to clear your computer's internet cache. Your browser has a folder where certain items are downloaded for future use and/or saving some time when downloading webpages. This is known as a cache or temporary internet files. This cache has been known to interfere with SRS' application program. Just clicking the refresh button will not work because it will just reload using the old files from the cache. You need to bypass or clear your cache to be able to sign in and apply.
  - Clearing the Cache:
    - Google Chrome:
      - Click the **Tools menu** (three dotted lines in the upper-right corner).
      - Select **History**.
      - Select **Clear Browsing Data** from the left-hand side. Set the **Time Range** set to **All Time**. Check-mark **Cookies and other site data** and **Cached images and files** and select **Clear Data**.
      - If on a Windows computer, close and re-open Chrome to save your changes. If on an Apple computer, go to the **Chrome** menu on the top menu bar and select **Quit** for the changes to take effect.
    - Microsoft Edge for Windows 10
      - Click the Tools menu (three dotted lines in the upper-right corner) and open the Settings menu.
      - Click Privacy, search, and services on the left-side menu.
      - Under the section Clear browsing data, Click Choose what to clear.
      - Select Cookies and other site data and Cached images and files.
      - Click Clear Now.
      - Close Microsoft Edge completely for your changes to take effect.
    - Safari for Mac OS
      - Click on Safari on the top menu bar.
      - Click Preferences.
      - Click the Privacy tab.
      - Click Manage Website Data...
      - Click Remove All.
      - Click Remove Now.
      - Go to the Safari menu on the top menu bar.
      - Select Quit to close Safari and save your changes.
- It may be that you are trying to apply using a cellphone or tablet. SRS works best on a desktop computer. If you do not have one, you can go to any PCS school or the Student Assignment Office for application help.
- If you notice an error, you can contact your school or the Student Assignment Office.



## District Application Programs Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. Do parents have to use the same parent username to log in to check their student(s) application(s)?**

**A.** Yes. The exact same username must be used to log in to check your student(s) application(s).

### **Q. Why can I not find my student's application when I enter my child's name and date of birth? Only "new student" appears even though my child is currently enrolled in a Pinellas County School.**

**A.** This might happen for several reasons:

- You might have misspelled, entered the wrong date of birth, or it is incorrect in the system. Double check how you entered your child's information or contact the school for the 10-digit Local Student ID # (found on your child's report card if currently enrolled in a Pinellas County school). Use the Student ID # instead of typing in the name and date of birth.
- You are using a cellphone or tablet. Sometimes the fonts do not translate well into the Student Assignment System. This happens especially with names with apostrophes, hyphens, or suffixes. Enter the Local Student ID # and it should work.
- You accidentally removed the application when you reviewed your application during the initial application period.

## **PRIORITIES**

### **Q. Do priorities apply to all applications and selected schools?**

**A.** No. Priorities are ONLY available during the initial application and acceptance period. Priorities ONLY apply to your top-ranked (first choice) program. Priorities DO NOT apply to any late application except for Military Transfers.

### **Q. What are Feeder Pattern Priorities?**

**A.** Students attending certain schools or programs are given priority to attend related programs at the next level. For example, fundamental students receive a priority for a seat in a fundamental school at the next level. To receive this priority, an initial application with a #1 program ranking must be submitted and invitation accepted during the acceptance period. See program descriptions for feeder pattern priorities.

### **Q. What is a Sibling Priority?**

**A.** Students are given priority if they meet eligibility criteria, and they have a sibling who will be attending the program at the same time. If a student attends a school-within-a-school, sibling preference does not extend to the traditional portion of a school or to any other programs at that school. The only exceptions are for elementary and middle schools with two or more programs (Elisa Nelson Elementary, Midtown Academy, John Hopkins Middle and Thurgood Marshall Middle).



### **Q. What if one sibling gets invited and accepted and the other does not?**

**A.** You can claim a Newly Invited Sibling Priority the week after the initial acceptance period. If a student is invited to an application program and has an eligible sibling who applied but was not invited, priority is given. The parent must contact the school's program coordinator directly during the week immediately following the acceptance period to claim newly invited sibling priority status.

Newly invited sibling priority status is only applicable during the initial acceptance period each year and is not granted to siblings of students invited from wait lists later in the school year.

### **Q. If I work for Pinellas County Schools can I get priority?**

**A.** Professional Courtesy Priority is given to a child of a staff member of Pinellas County Schools who lives in the district and works full-time at the school to which they are applying. If you do not work at the school with the program, you do not receive a professional courtesy priority.

### **Q. What is a Proximity Priority?**

**A.** Proximity priorities are applied to the remaining available seats for kindergarten, sixth and ninth grade applicants after feeder, sibling, and professional courtesy priorities have been applied. For elementary and middle schools, there is a 20% proximity priority (except for Tarpon Springs Fundamental and East Lake Middle which have a 50% proximity priority) and a 25% proximity priority for high schools.

Proximity means the distance a student lives from the school. The Manhattan Distance formula is used to calculate the distance using the Pinellas County Tax Appraiser's Address Atlas' latitude and longitude values. The number of proximity priority seats is given starting with the smallest Manhattan Distance value and continues in increasing order until the designated seats are given.

For example, let's say a program has 132 available Seats. 20 seats are given to feeder pattern priorities, 10 to sibling priorities and 2 to staff priority. 100 seats remain. This means in the entry grade levels, proximity priority would go to:

- 20 seats in elementary and middle school programs
- 25 seats in high school programs
- 50 seats at East Lake Middle School, Midtown Academy, and Tarpon Springs Fundamental

The rest of the available seats are randomly offered.

### **Q. What is the average proximity distance granted?**

**A.** Proximity distances vary year to year and may be less than half a mile up to over 10 miles depending on the number of applicants and where those applicants live in comparison to the school.





## District Application Programs Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. Do you have to apply if you already zoned to that school, but you are new to public school?**

**A.** You only need to apply if you want a seat in the magnet program. If you are zoned for the school, you will be in the traditional school not the magnet program.

### **ACCEPTANCE PERIOD/ LOTTERY RESULTS**

### **Q. Is the lottery purely random or are factors (like geography/zip code) factored in?**

**A.** The "lottery" is a computer-based randomizer. There are several priorities which impact offers: feeder pattern, sibling, staff, military, and proximity.

### **Q. Will I receive any official written notification if my child is accepted into one of these programs?**

**A.** No. You must log into the Student Reservation System (SRS) during the acceptance period, Feb. 7 -18, 2022. There you will find out if you have received an invitation to a school/ program. Then you either accept the invitation or take no action to remain on all wait lists.

### **Q. What happens if my child is invited to a program, but I do not log back into the SRS during the acceptance period?**

**A.** To guarantee your child's seat at the school from which an invitation was offered, you must log in during the appropriate dates to accept the invitation (Feb. 7-18, 2022). If you do not log back into the SRS system to accept an invitation during this period, your child's invitation will no longer be valid.

### **Q. If I apply to one of these schools and accept an invitation, can I change my mind and try to get into a zoned school instead?**

**A.** You may, but there is no guarantee that a seat would be available in the zoned school. Students entering kindergarten, sixth, or ninth grade are assigned to their zoned school in most cases. Students in other grades will be assigned based on seat availability.

### **Q. If I am not a Pinellas County resident, when will I find out my results?**

**A.** SAP applications are handled by the Student Assignment Office and are on a different timeline. Notification will occur in the summer after the District Application Programs' Initial Application, Acceptance, and Wait List periods. Please call Student Assignment, 727.588.6210, for more information about the SAP process.



## District Application Programs Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Does accepting an offer for a dap school affect the student's ability to later decide to attend their zoned school?**

A. No. At any point, you can choose to decline the DAP seat and attend the zoned school if there is capacity at the zoned school. If there is not capacity, Student Assignment works with transportation to find the closest school with capacity. If it is more than 2 miles away from your address, transportation will be provided.

### WAIT LIST

**Q. How long can my child stay on a wait list if no invitation is received?**

A. Applicants stay on the wait list for all the programs to which they apply until they accept an invitation to one of the programs or the wait list expires. Accepting an invitation to a program automatically removes a student's name from all other waiting lists (except for the Centers for Gifted Studies). For grades K-7, waiting lists expire on March 1. For grades 8-12, waiting lists expire on the 11th day of the second semester.

**Q. What happens at the end of the school year if my student is currently in a DAP program and on the wait list for a different DAP program?**

A. At the end of the school year, you will need to decide whether you want to stay at the current program and be taken off the wait list of the other program or transfer to your zoned school to remain on the other program's wait list.

**Q. How long are the waitlists generally for 1st grade? I'm hearing it can take 1-2 years to get into a magnet school. Is that accurate?**

A. Waitlists vary every year and are dependent on the number of people who apply. The best opportunity to enter a magnet or fundamental program is at the entry grade levels (KG, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>). Typically, these grades are the only ones with available seats.

Once you are in a program, you keep the seat until the highest grade level, or you decide to leave. In most cases, all other grade levels are waitlists which will only get offers when a seat becomes available.

Depending on the size of the waitlist and your wait list number, you may not get an offer for a first-grade seat.

**Q. If I have one DAP choice and get put on a wait list, should I apply for the Special Assignment Request for the high school I want in April?**

A. You can apply for a Special Assignment Request (SAR). If you are granted the SAR, you would attend the traditional side of the school. You would remain on the DAP waitlist and have the chance on being offered a seat in the program.