

PROGRAMS

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

A. Magnet schools have a focused theme and curricula that aligns to the theme. PCS offers various themes, such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Visual and Performing Arts, International Baccalaureate, International Studies, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Dual Language and others.

Fundamental programs are family-oriented schools providing a 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 2025-2026?

A. We have one new pathway and two dual language grade level expansions:

- Integrated Arts Pathway at Gibbs High's PCCA
- Oak Grove Middle Spanish Dual Language expansion to grade 7
- Bardmoor Elementary Spanish Dual Language expansion to grade 1

Q. What are DAP Fairs?

A. DAP Fairs provide families the opportunity to learn about different magnet and fundamental programs. Think of a trade show- each program will have representatives at a table with displays to give you a better idea of what they have to offer families. Many programs provide handouts and takeaways so you can research more later. DAP Fairs are a great way to learn about the different options PCS offers.

Q. What is the difference between a DAP Fair and a Discovery Night?

A. DAP Fairs have multiple schools and programs for parents to get a working knowledge of what PCS has to offer. They provide a general overview of the programs and provide materials and handouts to learn more about what they provide. This allows parents to start to narrow down which programs hold their interest. To learn more about the DAP Fairs, visit:

<https://www.pcsb.org/Page/40281>



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Discovery Nights are a great way to learn more about a program at a more in-depth level. Each program hosts a Discovery Night on their school campus to give families a feel for the campus and program. Families will learn about the program, meet teachers and students, and get a campus tour. There will be time to get questions addressed and answered. To get Discovery Night Information, visit: <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/17234>

Q. If I miss the DAP Fairs, how can I learn more about the different programs?

A. Start by visiting 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.

ENTRY GRADE LEVELS

Q. Are there programs for incoming kindergartners or are they required to attend their zoned school?

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

Q. At what grade level(s) do the gifted or literacy innovation programs start?

A. The Centers for Gifted Studies and Literacy Innovation start in first grade.

Q. Can you only enter a high school Magnet 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 and R.I.S.E. only accepts first-year students due to the course sequence and progression.

AVAILABLE SEATS

Q. Are seats available at every grade level?

A. No, typically the only available seats are at entry level grades (KG, 6th, or 9th). Once you are accepted into a program, you remain until the highest grade level. This means unless a family

leaves, there will not be seats in other grade levels. There is an exception in 4th grade for most programs as the teacher-student ratio increases from 1:18 to 1:22. Most elementary programs, except for Curtis Fundamental and Perkins, will have a handful of available seats in 4th grade.

Q. Do the number of available seats change from year to year?

A. Typically, the number of seats is about the same every year. Available seats are dependent on many factors including available building capacity, the staffing model, and more.

TRANSPORTATION

Q. Is transportation provided?

A. Arterial school bus transportation for magnet and career academy program students (not fundamental) who live more than two miles from their schools. Arterial routing restricts bus operation to main roads and limits the number of stops to keep bus rides as short as practicable. Arterial School bus stops may be farther than one and one-half (1 1/2) miles from the students' residences. Students may be required to cross a multi-lane road (3 or more lanes).

For programs with application areas, transportation is only provided to eligible students within the application area. Some programs have unique application and transportation areas.

Q. Is specialized transportation provided?

A. Specialized transportation (ESE students who have an IEP that requires transportation or Section 504) is provided to a student's zoned school not a DAP program. If parents choose to enroll the student in a DAP, arterial transportation will be provided, consistent with the transportation provided to non-disabled students.

Q. Does the IB program offer transportation?

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

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q. How do I find my application area?

A. Go to 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 or listed at www.pcsb.org/Page/10037

Q. When can I apply?

A. The initial application period runs from January 7 through January 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The Late Application period will open on April 2, 2025.

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, January 7-17, 2025, are randomized giving applications equal treatment.

Q. If my child is in fundamental school and I want to move them to another fundamental school, do they have the opportunity to do so when I apply for 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. 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. 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.

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, The Vet programs at Tarpon Springs HS and Tech High, 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. 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 25-26 of the DAP Guide or review the District Application Programs procedures manual at www.pcsb.org/choice.

Q. What is the academic entrance criteria?



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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 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 and Literacy Innovation).

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, once you accept an offer and take the DAP seat, you forfeit the charter school seat.

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.

Q. What if I miss the Initial Application Period?

A. There is a late application period that opens on April 2, 2025. 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. For all other questions, call Student Assignment, (727) 588-6210.

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 program continuation 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). Siblings are defined as brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, or other children with common legal guardianship (Policy 5500.01) who live in the same household. In the case of shared custody, the address used will be the address designated for school assignment purposes (Policy 5500.01).

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. Proximity means the distance a student lives from the school and all proximity distances are computed using Manhattan Distance formula to the nearest hundredth of a mile.

Pinellas County schools use the longitude and latitude values assigned to each address in the Pinellas County Tax Appraiser's Property Atlas. Each property's values and the school's values are used in the Manhattan Distance formula to create the distances that will be used to determine the proximity priorities given.

For example, let's say a school has 132 seats. 32 seats go to feeder pattern, sibling, and professional courtesy. That means there are 100 seats left. For elementary and middle schools, there is a 20% proximity priority (except for Tarpon Springs Fundamental, East Lake Middle, and Mangrove Bay Middle which have a 50% proximity priority) and a 25% proximity priority for high schools. This means, 20, 50, or 25 seats respectively are given a proximity priority.

Those seats go to the lowest Manhattan distance numbers in the formula. The rest of the seats are given to randomly selected applicants.

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. For more information, refer to the District Application Programs Procedures Manual, available at www.pcsb.org/choice.

ACCEPTANCE PERIOD/ LOTTERY RESULTS

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, February 12 – 21, 2025. 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 (February 12 - 21, 2025). 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. 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.

SIGNING IN AT [HTTPS://FOCUS.PCSB.ORG](https://focus.pcsb.org)

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

A. There are several different possibilities:

- You may need to reset your password. Go to <http://focus.pcsb.org> and select the "forgot my password link."
- 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.

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 weighted 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, from 12:01 AM Feb. 12 through 5:00 PM February 21, 2025. 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 February 12 - 21, 2025, to accept the invitation. 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.

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, transportation is provided.

OFFER SCREEN- INELIGIBILITY

Q. Why am I marked Ineligible?

- A.** There are several distinct reasons you might be marked as ineligible:
- If you are currently in the program, you did not need to reapply. You would be marked Ineligible.
 - If you applied for a Center for Gifted Studies and do not have gifted eligibility or an active EP, you would be marked Ineligible- Academic.
 - If you applied for a Center for Literacy Innovation and did not go to the screening, you would be marked Ineligible- Academic.

 - If you applied for a high school IB (International Baccalaureate) or Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate Education) program and did not meet the entrance criteria, you would be marked Ineligible- Academics.
 - If you applied for one of Gibbs' PCCA (Pinellas County Center for the Arts) programs and did not audition, you would be marked as Ineligible- Academics.



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- If you had 10+ referrals from January 2024- December 2024 and/or a SESIR at any time, you would be Ineligible- Discipline.

Q. What does Academic Ineligible mean?

A. This means the student is ineligible due to Academics (not meeting criteria, already in the program, not auditioning for PCCA).

Q. What does Discipline Ineligible mean?

A. This means Ineligible due to Discipline. A student must have 10+ referrals from January - December 2024 and/ or a SESIR at any time during their schooling to be identified as Ineligible- DISP

Q. Can I appeal an “Ineligible” determination?

A. Yes. You can appeal during the week following the Acceptance Period. Reach out to the Program Coordinator (contact information should be on confirmation email) during the week of February 24 - 28, 2025 and request an appeal.

OFFER SCREEN- INITIAL WAIT LIST

Q. What is a Temporary/Initial Waitlist Number?

A. This is a temporary wait list number that will change after the Acceptance Period and Newly Invited Sibling/ Appeal Week. This number may be placed higher or lower depending on several factors:

- The number of families that did not respond to offers
- The number of newly invited sibling priorities granted
- The number of appeals that are granted

Q. Is there anyone who can help me calculate my odds/ give me advice on what to select?

A. Contact the DAP Program Coordinator to discuss program benefits to better inform your decision. Coordinators may be able to supply some historical data on how many wait list offers are made each year. (The Student Assignment Office does not control wait lists- this is handled at the school level. They will not be able to help with the wait list probability questions.)

Q. What is a realistic wait list number?

A. It all depends on how many people accept the initial offers and how many seats become available. The lower the number, the better the chance.

Each program handles their own wait lists, so they have the best data on how many typically get called off a wait list. However, each year is different. Once a program fills its seats, wait list offers only occur when a seat becomes available.

Q. Do I stay on the waitlist of the other programs when I accept an offer?

A. No. When you accept an offer, you are automatically removed from all other wait lists.

RESPONDING TO AN OFFER

Q. Can Student Assignment log into the application and accept for the parent?

A. No. Parents can contact the schools or SA office to reset passwords if necessary. ID must be verified to reset password. Only the person/username that made the original application can access the application to respond.

Q. If I 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. What happens if you were invited to more than one program?

A. You can only accept 1 program. Once you select and accept a program, you will be removed from all other wait lists.

Q. Why do I never get an offer? I have applied for x number of years in a row.

A. Most grade levels do not have available seats. Typically, only the entry grade levels have available seats.

Q. What happens if you only applied for one program but decide to decline it? Is there something that you need to do?

A. No action is needed if you wish to decline an offer or remain on the wait list.

Q. Are seats offered for every grade?

A. No. Most programs only have seats available for the incoming grade level (KG, 6th, and 9th grade). Only if there is available space are seats offered at other grade levels. Depending on the staffing model, some elementary schools have a few openings in 4th grade as the teacher-to-student ratio increases.

All other grade applicants go on a wait list. As seats open, the school will call and offer seats to parents on the wait list.

Q. We only applied for the culinary program. If we do not get invited, will we be automatically added to the waitlist?

A. Yes. If you are not offered a seat, you will see a temporary/initial wait list number. The final wait list number will be available on March 10, 2025.

ACCEPTS

Q. What happens after February 21 if you accepted a spot?

A. Your accepted program will reach out to you with a welcome message, important dates, and information, and let you know of any new family events or orientations they have scheduled.

Q. If we accept one program, but we're on a waitlist for another one, as soon as we accept one, we are removed from the waitlist, correct?

A. Yes. That is correct. Once you accept one seat, you will be removed from all other wait lists except for a Center for Gifted Studies. Go to <https://reservation.pcsb.org> to change your choice anytime and make changes during the Acceptance Period before 5:00 PM on February 21, 2025.

Q. I don't want my children to be in different schools. What if I accept a seat based on one child's acceptance, but another child is on waitlist? Let's say that later in the summer, if the second child does not get an offer, can I decline the 1st child's seat?

A. You can decline the offer at any time. Just contact the Program Coordinator and let them know. They will work with the Student Assignment Office to have a reservation made at the zoned school.

Q. Let's say my daughter was invited to the ExCEL program and we accepted the seat. Once school starts, if she does not like the program can she move to the IB program?

A. You would need to give up your daughter's ExCEL seat and then make a late application for the IB program. I recommend checking to see if there are available seats and/or a wait list before you give up the seat. If there is a wait list, you will need to wait until you are called, offered a seat, and accept to move into the IB program.

Q. If we decide to stay on a waitlist versus accepting before February 21, can we move back on the waitlist due to others having sibling priority?

A. You can decline a seat to remain on another wait list. However, if it is after April 2, 2025 and a sibling is offered and accepts the program to which the first child declined, you cannot go back onto the wait list. They would need to reapply during the late application period. At this point, there is no sibling priority.



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In the listed scenario, it would be better to accept the seat to the first program and claim a newly invited sibling priority during the week of February 24 - 28, 2025. This would give your family the best chance for siblings to get an offer.

Q. If my daughter does not get into the high school Culinary Arts program this upcoming year, will we be able to apply for her 10th grade year?

A. Most magnet programs, like Culinary Arts, allow incoming 9th and 10th grade students. If you are applying as a 9th grader for the 2025 - 26 school year and do not get invited, you can apply next January for a 10th grade seat.

PRIORITY CLAIMS

Q. Why didn't I get the sibling/ professional courtesy priority that I claimed?

A. There could be several reasons why your claim was not granted:

- The sibling is rising (5, 8 or 12 grade) and will not be in the program with the sibling next year
- You did not put the student id # in the application
- You do not work at the school full-time

Q. Do priorities apply to all my selected programs?

A. No. Priorities are only applied to your #1 ranked choice. If claiming a priority, be sure to make that program as your # 1 choice. If you claimed priority for your 2- 5 choice, it would not count.

Q. I have a younger sibling to a student in 5th, 8th or 12th grade do I get a sibling priority?

A. No. To receive a sibling priority, both students need to be in the same program next year. In the case of a rising 5th, 8th, or 12th grader the older sibling will be out of the program and in a different school. Two exceptions exist: Madeira Beach K-8 and James B. Sanderlin K-8. Since both are K-8 programs, sibling priorities are granted for both levels.

Q. What if one sibling got invited and the other does not?

A. If you put the same program as the #1 ranked choice for both siblings, you can claim a Newly Invited Sibling Priority the week after the Initial Acceptance Period (February 14 -23, 2024). 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. Is there a sibling priority for multiple births?

A. No. However, there is a newly-invited sibling period (February 24 – 28, 2025) where you can claim a sibling priority if one sibling received and accepted an offer, and the other siblings did not.

Q. Whom do we contact to claim a newly invited sibling priority?

A. Call the DAP Program Coordinator at the school during February 24 -25, 2025. Contact information will be on the confirmation screen and email.

While this does not guarantee a seat, it will move their wait list position towards the top. Please call the program coordinator at the school to claim sibling priority.

APPEALS

Q. My student was marked ineligible for one of their selections. Can I appeal against this decision?

A. Please contact (call or email) the coordinator of the specific program between February 26 - 28, 2025.

Q. If I make an appeal, do I need to do anything else?

A. Please contact (call or email) the coordinator of the specific program between February 26 - 28, 2025.

WAITLISTS

Q. Are waitlist numbers updated on the portal?

A. No. After the Newly Invited Sibling/ Appeals week of February 24 - 28, 2025, wait list numbers are maintained at each school. You can call the school directly starting March 6 to find out your wait list number. Schools go in numerical order when making offers for seats that become available. Please note that schools will reach out to you when they have an available seat.

Q. How can I check my waitlist numbers?

A. Temporary waitlist numbers are listed when you log in to check the status of your application from Feb. 12 - 21 at 5pm. Actual waitlist numbers are available beginning March 10, 2025. Parents should call the school for the "Actual" waitlist numbers. Schools will have the most updated information.

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. Accepting an invitation to a program automatically removes a



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student's name from all other waiting lists (except for the Centers for Gifted Studies). The 2024-25 Wait lists expire on January 16, 2025.

Q. What happens at the end of the school year if my student is currently in a DAP (district application program) 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 correct?

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, 6th, and 9th). 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 who 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 of being offered a seat in the program.

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



District Application Programs Frequently Asked Questions

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. For all other questions, call Student Assignment, (727) 588-6210.

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TRANSPORTATION

Q. When do I find out where the bus stop would be?

A. Bus routes are figured out in the summer. You will get notified via mail before the new school year starts. You can call Transportation at (727) 587-2020 to get an idea of this year's routes as a comparison.

Q. If my child gets accepted to a school that she isn't zoned for will she still be able to get to on the bus?

A. The answer depends on the program. If it is for a magnet program and you live 2+ miles from the school in its application area, arterial transportation will be provided. Fundamentals KG-8 do not provide transportation except for Thurgood Marshall MS which will transport students who reside in the MS south application area and high school programs within the application area.

LATE APPLICATION PERIOD

Q. I forgot to apply. When can parents submit a "LATE" application?

A. Parents can submit a "LATE" application beginning April 2, 2025.

Q. Is it a random lottery for the Late Application Period like it is for the Initial?

A. No. The Late Application Period is time sensitive. As you apply, you are placed at the bottom of the wait list (if there is one). Additions are placed in day/ time order, so if you apply earlier in the Late Application Period, you will have a better wait list position.

Q. Can I change my selections?

A. Yes, you can make changes in the Late Application Period.



District Application Programs Frequently Asked Questions

- You may log in and make changes to the application beginning April 2, 2025.
- You may add a choice on that date to any application that has less than 5 choices.
- If your application already has 5 selections, you must call Student Assignment office at 727-588-6211 to remove one of your selections. Parents will need to make a new choice for the number of removed selections.
 - If parents make any changes to existing selections, application will be considered a "Late" application and student will be moved to bottom of current waitlists for all selections.

Q. Can I change the ranking of the selected programs? For example, if my 9th grader wants to continue in our #4 choice is there a way to move the #4 choice to #1 or #2?

A. You can in the Late Application Period, but please note if you do the Student Reservation System will recognize this as a new application and place you at the bottom of the wait list. This will decrease your chances of getting an offer.

OTHER

Q. If my son gets into and accepts a district program, how do I get my daughter into the same high school (but not in a program). It's not their zoned school. Logistically, we would like them to both go to the same high school.

A. You can apply for a Special Assignment Request for your daughter. This allows students to attend a non-zoned, non-DAP school provided the school has available seats.

The Late Application Period for SARs will open April 2. This is also a randomized computer program. Results will be shared before the end of the school year.