

High School Selection

How to select five high schools

When choosing a high school, you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) must carefully review the following if you are interested in applying to a Special Admission or Citywide school and then compare it to the school's admissions requirements:

- 1) Your 7th grade academic performance—specifically, your FINAL grades for the year.
- 2) Your 7th grade PSSA Scores
- 3) Your 7th grade Attendance Record

Why is this Important?

High School selection is **very** competitive---especially at the School District's Special Admission Schools. The facts are:

- ◆ If a school specifies that an application must have Proficient or Advanced PSSA scores or only A's and B's, they will most likely not consider a student who does not meet those requirements.
- ◆ If a school specifies that an applicant should have excellent attendance and punctuality, then a student with 5 or more unexcused absences and 5 or more lateness's will most likely not be considered.
- ◆ If a school specifies "no unsatisfactory disciplinary history", then a student who has 1 or more suspensions in his or her record may not be considered.

It has become increasingly difficult to gain acceptance into Philadelphia's Special Admission High Schools. It is very important to research the admission requirements and compare them to your personal record honestly and always have alternative options.

How to select the right school for me:

First, Review the profiles of each school you are interested in by referencing the "Great Philly Schools" book. Choose up to 8 schools that best match your profile and list them on the high school selection tool with your academic profile. Ultimately, you will apply to only 5 schools.

Discuss these schools with your family and teachers. Request an appointment with Ms. Stern (jestern@philasd.org) if needed to review your choices!

Research more information about each school: What courses do they offer that interest you, what types of activities and programs do they offer? Where is the school located? Will you be able to get there on time daily?

Narrow it down to 5!

- 1 REACH school whose criteria is just above your grades and scores
- 3 BEST FIT schools whose criteria matches your grades and scores
- 1 SAFE school whose criteria fall just below your grades and scores