


Dear Families,

The High School Application season is here! The following process is for Philadelphia public high schools ONLY. Charters and Private schools have their own independent applications. The School District of Philadelphia high school application process is an **online** process which **opens on Friday, September 16 at 4:00 PM** and **closes on Friday, November 4, 2022 at 11:59 pm**. School District of Philadelphia high school application may be completed on a computer, tablet, smartphone, or any device accessible to internet services. As the School Counselor, I am here to help you navigate this process!

**There are 3 different types of School District of Philadelphia schools:**

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| <p><b>1. Catchment Schools</b> — (Formerly known as Neighborhood Schools) The Catchment School that Farrell students can attend is <i>Northeast High School</i>. Students can also apply to other Catchment Schools in Philadelphia, where selection is based upon <b>space availability</b>. CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs are often at Catchment Schools.</p>  |
| <p><b>2. Citywide Admission Schools</b> — Students from across the city are eligible to apply for Citywide Schools. After applying, selection is based on a computerized <b>lottery</b> and space availability. Citywide schools do <b>not</b> have admissions criteria.</p>   |
| <p><b>3. Criteria Schools</b> —(Formerly known as Special Admissions Schools) Students who are eligible must meet <b>competitive admissions requirements</b> (<i>attendance, PSSA Scores, and grades</i>). This year, high schools will review students' <u>grades and attendance from 6th and 7th grade</u>, and will use the better grade in each subject to make their admissions decision (for example, if your child had an "A" in 6th grade math, but a "B" in 7th grade math - high schools will use the 6th grade math grade for admissions decisions). High Schools will be reviewing <u>PSSA scores from 7th grade only</u>. Some of the Criteria Schools require students to perform a mandatory audition or project presentation after the application window.</p> |

**The Application Process:**

You and your child can select up to **five (5)** School District of Philadelphia high schools. You and your child will apply to the School District of Philadelphia schools online via your child's Student Portal. This is the portal that your child uses every day to access online learning platforms. Once logged into their philasd.org Student Portal, click on the "Message Center", and then on the "School Selection" icon (there will be a picture of a graduation cap ). 

It is crucial that your child applies to schools for which they meet the criteria (*attendance, PSSA scores and grade criteria - and specific skills/talents required by the school*). You can view your child's attendance and academic data on their Student Portal. The specific admission requirements for each school can be found at The School District of Philadelphia's School Selection site: [www.philasd.org/findyourfit](http://www.philasd.org/findyourfit)

Admission criteria varies by school. Please also consider schools that are a reasonable distance from your home, to ensure prompt, daily school attendance. To learn more about high schools, I recommend checking out the Philly High School Fair. Tickets are free, but you must register online.

Your child's application may also have **additional requirements**. Some schools require an audition or a project/portfolio submission in November. This year, high schools are **not** requiring or accepting Letters of Recommendation, Essays, Writing Samples, or Interviews. A full list of each high schools admissions criteria and addition requirements is on the School Selection website: [www.philasd.org/findyourfit](http://www.philasd.org/findyourfit)

★ **LeGare Information:** If your child has an **IEP, 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL)**, there is one additional step. On the online application, there will be fields that “pop up” to attach additional documents. This will be completed by the School Counselor and your child’s IEP Case Manager, who have access to your child’s application. Additional information will be provided to you directly, but no extra work is required for students or their families. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions: Jessica Dougherty, School Counselor, [jdougherty2@philasd.org](mailto:jdougherty2@philasd.org).

### Application Process Timeline

Selection Step	Date
★ Application Window <u>Opens</u>	September 16, 2020 at 5 PM
Philly High School Fair at the Convention Center <i>Be sure to register online for your free ticket!</i>	Friday, October 14th (4pm-7pm) & Saturday, October 15th (10am-3pm)
★ Application Window <u>Closes</u>	November 4, 2020 at 11:59 PM
More details on Important Dates can be found on the School Selection website: <a href="http://www.philasd.org/findyourfit">www.philasd.org/findyourfit</a>	

#### **Suggested Timeline Goals:**

**Now - October 10:** Begin to think about High Schools. Register for the High School Fair. Review the School Selection website and High School Directory. Calculate each school’s distance from your home and SEPTA routes using Google Maps. Discuss High School choices with friends and family. Keep an eye out for information about upcoming High School Open Houses or virtual events. Finalize top 5 Philadelphia Public High School choices.

**October 10 - October 17:** Research admission criteria for each school. Do any of the schools require an audition or portfolio/project submission? Do you need to prepare a portfolio? Continue to keep an eye out for information about upcoming Open Houses or virtual events.

**October 17 - November 4:** Contact Ms. Jess if you have any questions ([jdougherty2@philasd.org](mailto:jdougherty2@philasd.org)) and finalize your choices. Submit application on Student Portal.

Once your child’s application is submitted, we will wait. If your child applied to a school that required an audition or project submission, they will be scheduled in November. On January 13th, we will hear back from high schools regarding their admissions decisions. Students and their families will be able to view their options in student and parent portals. I look forward to working with you and your child! As this process continues, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at [jdougherty2@philasd.org](mailto:jdougherty2@philasd.org).

Thank you,

**Jessica Dougherty**  
 School Counselor  
[jdougherty2@philasd.org](mailto:jdougherty2@philasd.org)



School Selection Website



Philly High School Fair