



Enrollment practices

City School District of Albany

Four ways we enroll students

- ▶ Student address
- ▶ Lottery
- ▶ Enrollment patterns
- ▶ Open enrollment/school choice

Student address - elementary schools

- ▶ School district geographically divided into nine neighborhood elementary school zones
- ▶ Each elementary school is relatively centrally located in that zone; children who live in the neighborhood elementary zone are assigned to that elementary school
- ▶ There are neighborhood elementary zones for Arbor Hill Elementary, Delaware Community School, Eagle Point Elementary, Giffen Elementary, New Scotland Elementary, North Albany Academy, Philip Schuyler Elementary, Pine Hills Elementary and Sheridan Preparatory Academy

Student address - proximity to a school

- ▶ Students who live within a half-mile of one middle school but their elementary school feeds into a different middle school can apply for open enrollment (we'll discuss that later on) and will receive neighborhood preference.
- ▶ Students who live within a half-mile of a magnet school still have to apply to the lottery and receive neighborhood preference. Students who live within a half-mile of a magnet school have a different school assigned as their neighborhood school.

Lottery - elementary

- ▶ Two lotteries
 - ▶ Prekindergarten
 - ▶ Magnet schools and Dual-Language program
- ▶ Parents have to apply for both lotteries and are asked to select their top four school choices
- ▶ Certain factors go into play that affect where a child will be assigned:
 - ▶ **Sibling preference.** A child with a brother or sister already in elementary school will be given preference at that school.
 - ▶ **Neighborhood preference.** Preference will be given to a child who lives within a half-mile of a magnet school or within a given neighborhood school's attendance zone.
 - ▶ **School choice.** This option allows parents to choose a pre-K seat at a non-magnet school outside their attendance zone if space is available
- ▶ Names of students with sibling preference are drawn first. Names of students with neighborhood preference are drawn second. All other names are drawn for remaining seats.

Lottery - Albany High School academies

- ▶ All students attend Albany High, but the school is made up of four academies enrolled by lottery.
- ▶ All district eighth-graders complete an application with their guidance counselor ranking academy preference.
- ▶ For the first five years of the lottery, virtually all students received their first choice.
- ▶ Enrollment in Albany High's four academies became unbalanced as the academies have evolved; themes for Discovery and Innovation academies are clearer and often have been the preferred choice for students and families considering college and career pathways.
- ▶ District now caps enrollment at each academy. Caps are set based on the anticipated enrollment for the next school year.

Lottery - How a middle-school lottery MIGHT look

- ▶ Names of all registered fifth-grade students are entered into a database
- ▶ District randomly assigns each student to a middle school via lottery
- ▶ Option considered but rejected a decade ago by original middle school enrollment committee

Enrollment pattern - Where a child attends elementary school

- ▶ Whether a student attends Hackett and Myers is based on where that student attended elementary school.
- ▶ Initial patterns developed by committee in 2009 for 2009-10 school year; remained in place until 2017-18 school year begins.
- ▶ Patterns were devised by distributing the higher, middle and lower performing schools equally among the two schools.
- ▶ Original Hackett feeder schools: Arbor Hill Elementary, Delaware Community, Eagle Point, New Scotland and TOAST
- ▶ Original Myers feeder schools: ASH, Giffen, Montessori, Pine Hills, Schuyler Achievement, Sheridan Prep

Enrollment pattern - Where a child attends elementary school (continued)

- ▶ Patterns will change for the 2017-18 school year due to immediate need to find space for students.
- ▶ Students graduating from the following elementary schools will attend Myers Middle School in September:
 - ▶ Albany School of Humanities (ASH) - incoming seventh-graders
 - ▶ Giffen Memorial Elementary School - incoming seventh-graders
 - ▶ Montessori Magnet School - incoming sixth-graders
 - ▶ Pine Hills Elementary School - incoming sixth-graders
- ▶ Students graduating from these elementary schools will attend Hackett Middle School:
 - ▶ Delaware Community School - incoming sixth-graders
 - ▶ Eagle Point Elementary School - incoming seventh-graders
 - ▶ New Scotland Elementary School - incoming sixth-graders
 - ▶ Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST) - incoming seventh-graders

How a middle-school enrollment pattern by elementary school **MIGHT** look: 3 middle schools

- ▶ Middle school 1 - 1,000 students
 - ▶ Arbor Hill Elementary, Delaware Community School, Montessori Magnet School, North Albany Academy, Pine Hills Elementary
- ▶ Middle school 2 - 675 students
 - ▶ New Scotland Elementary School, Sheridan Preparatory Academy and Thomas O'Brien academy of Science and Technology (TOAST)
- ▶ Middle school 3 - 650 students
 - ▶ Albany School of Humanities (ASH), Eagle Point Elementary and Giffen Elementary
- ▶ Pattern derived by distributing the higher, middle and lower performing schools as equally as possible among three schools

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS ONE OF MANY POSSIBLE ENROLLMENT PATTERNS. THIS IS NOT A SUGGESTION OR RECOMMENDATION.

How a middle-school enrollment pattern by elementary school **MIGHT** look: 4 middle schools

- ▶ Middle school 1: 650 students
 - ▶ Arbor Hill Elementary, Albany School of Humanities (ASH), Eagle Point Elementary, North Albany Academy
- ▶ Middle school 2: 650 students
 - ▶ Delaware Community School, New Scotland Elementary School, Schuyler Achievement Academy
- ▶ Middle school 3: 650 students
 - ▶ Pine Hills Elementary School, Sheridan Preparatory Academy, Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology
- ▶ Middle school 4: 350 students
 - ▶ Montessori Magnet School, Giffen Elementary

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Enrollment pattern - location

- ▶ In September, the new middle school at 50 North Lark St. will be enrolled in a temporary pattern:
 - ▶ Arbor Hill Elementary School - incoming sixth- and seventh-graders
 - ▶ North Albany Academy - incoming sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders
 - ▶ Philip Schuyler Achievement Academy - incoming sixth-graders
 - ▶ Sheridan Preparatory Academy - incoming sixth-graders
 - ▶ West Hill Middle School - incoming eighth-graders
- ▶ Pattern will remain in place until long-term enrollment plans are approved by the Board of Education
- ▶ Pattern derived by enrolling students whose elementary schools are closest to 50 North Lark

Open enrollment

▶ Elementary

- ▶ Families of kindergarten-grade 5 students can select up to three schools they would like to attend instead of their neighborhood school
- ▶ Parents fill out application in May; applications reviewed in July to see what schools have space available for open enrollment. Students with siblings in the school and who have attended a school but moved outside of the attendance zone given preference

▶ Middle School

- ▶ Families of students in grades 6-8 can select a middle school other than their feeder school that they would like to attend
- ▶ Not offered recently due to limited number of middle school seats
- ▶ Applications are available May 1 of each school year. Applications are reviewed in July to see what schools have space available for open enrollment. Students with siblings in the school and who have attended a school but moved outside of the attendance zone are given preference.

Questions