

**Should APS include every student entering the following grades in a lottery for option schools?**

- Kindergarten
- Grade 6

Strengths	Challenges	Other
its more of a lottery if its done this way. Everyone has an option of getting in the lottery. Some don't know about it.	Consider an opt out or a trial year if they are selected incase some students might not like the lottery school?	
		Yes, it would simplify the process for parents if all students were included. Then, we don't have to decide IF we should bother applying-- we only have to decide IF we will take the option if we get it. :) this does mean APS will have to handle a lot of "No, thank yous!" though, I am sure so will need a multi-layered acceptance/wait list system. Also, would need significantly more OPEN HOUSE type informational sessions so that parents could fully understand any option school they DID get into.
	Additional cost with little known benefit. May have kids attending schools that are not best choice for them and thus exclude others. Huge administrative cost and challenge.	Again answer problem this is trying to fix? What schools will be most impacted and how
TO IMPROVE EQUAL ACCESS TO LOTTERIES APS SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUTREACH TO FAMILIES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT LOTTERY OPTIONS, PERHAPS EXTEND DEADLINE FOR LOTTERY, BUT DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY ENROLL EVERY FAMILY IN LOTTERIES.	AUTOMATIC LOTTERY FOR OPTION SCHOOLS ASSUMES EVERY FAMILY WANTS A SPOT FOR THEIR CHILD WHICH DILUTES CHANCES FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN A PARTICULAR OPTION. AUTOMATIC LOTTERY IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.	ABSOLUTELY NOT. LOTTERY SHOULD BE OPT-IN ONLY FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN PARTICULAR OPTION(S).
This would allow all parents the option	Timeline for implementation and choices would need to be clear	

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This seems to be the most fair option. I'm sure there's research on whether or not it will work.		
	The option schools are really not for every family. We were not committed enough to bilingual education to apply to the immersion school. We also had no interest toward Montessori.	
		Yes, this is fair.
		Maybe only families that want to be in the lottery.
		If this change is adopted, much more transparent and clear communication to parents should be provided regarding school zones and options, especially to rising Kindergarten families. Such communication should include a dedicated (easy-to-find) webpage explaining options and key dates, as well as regular information sessions in-person and online.
No. Don't do this.	In general, parents will only apply if the option school is convenient to their home or work.	
		I think it should be up to families to determine whether they want to enter the lottery.
Yes		
		No

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	<p>Not every child wants to go to an option school. Everyone has the same opportunity to apply. The students that choose the lottery for option school want to go to the option school.</p>	<p>By putting everyone in a lottery, students who did not want an option school and get selected, may not have same commitment to school. For example, I understand the % of gifted students is higher (about 50%) at HB Woodlawn, compared to about 1/3 at Swanson. The students that choose HB are more motivated to excel and also take more responsibility / independence at younger age that not all middle school students are ready for.</p>
		<p>What does "Admission to Option School" mean? I cannot find a clean definition of "Option school" anywhere</p>
	<p>No. This will create a time-consuming, expensive administrative process as well as frustration for families. Instead, with centralized registration, have one registration form with check boxes on which the parents can indicate which programs they want their child to be considered for. Otherwise the process of confirming which students want to attend a program will take so long that families who were actually interested in that program may just opt for their neighborhood school.</p>	<p>Do a better job of outreach and explaining the options to families. Have a centralized registration process (preferably online) that increases the ease of applying to the choice programs.</p>

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Not good!	What message would you be sending about Arlington's neighborhood schools? "Oh, you didn't get in on the lottery, so you have to go to the neighborhood school." Please don't do this. Neighborhood schools--especially elementary--are the backbone of the APS system.	Parents can enter lottery if they believe the option is appropriate for their kid. APS can make this easier with better communication and easy access to forms. It is better now that parents no longer have to attend orientations and get principal signatures. It is also better now that HB offers applications at the middle school info nights. Hopefully, this new policy will lead to some needed diversity in that program (currently no different from Yorktown)
Yes, I think so. Low-income disadvantaged populations are less likely to apply for the option schools. It is a good idea to include them.	On the other hand, the benefit of options schools is that parents have "bought in" to the program. Making the lottery more of a default could detract from that benefit.	We are at ATS and the fact that children can be held back or even asked to leave has a powerful psychological effect on the parents and students. A Default lottery could detract from that.
	super lottery seems like a logistical nightmare	
	NO - you need interest in the program in order for the student & school community to succeed; families that choose an option school have a reason/desire to do so	this change would seem to be very difficult for APS & families to manage
A good move for less informed; at K we didn't even pay attention to the options.		
none	why include a rising Kindergartner in a lottery that his/her family may have zero interest in? restrict the lottery to families who want their child to attend that school	

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None	Would require parents of students who want an option school to wait for slots to be freed up by parents of students who do not want an option school	Option schools should be options for students with particular aptitudes or interests. It could take a long time for parents whose native language is not English to understand how to opt out of an option school they do not want.
	This is not necessary. Families should decide whether they want to enter the lottery. It would just make things more confused. Also many students aren't registered in Arlington Co as early as needed to be in lottery.	
		All students should automatically be entered to ensure equity.
	No, this is not a good approach. It overcrowds the lotteries with families who are not truly interested in the program and will result in massive numbers of declines, creating a logistical nightmare	Intentional outreach to minority/underrepresented communities is a better way to achieve the intended goals of this idea
		No preference. The change seems to have little impact.
		No- it doesn't make sense to force a child who wouldn't be a good fit- both in terms of culture, curriculum, or academic rigor into an option school. That is not equitable. Parents should opt-in.m by applying if they desire to send their child to an option school
This will make it easier for parents who are not familiar with the lottery process have access to the option schools.	Make sure information is easily available.	Have the parents register through neighborhood schools and with a check box to be considered for option school. This way they don't have to take extra time visting schools just for a signature.

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	what problem does this solve? lottery is based on family's opting in to participate.	
None other than intercounty clerical considerations.	What benefit does this provide?	Lotteries should be earlier, and lotteries for 1st grade entrance in the Montessori program should be done prior to the Kindergarten year but delayed so that families can plan.
No, parents who are interested should apply. Most neighborhood schools are excellent and those students do not need to transfer to option schools.	Would further limit choice for families who are interested in option schools. Already high demand and limited space.	
	offering spots to students/families who might not even be interested in option schools and taking the opportunity away from others.	focus on communication: arrange town halls or information sessions for options schools across the county.
Yes, why not. Options are good.		
I can't see any strengths to this proposal.	Entering everyone makes the spots more competitive - seems like less choice?	
		When registering for school at Kindergarten and 6th Grade, you should give the parents an option to enter into a lottery - not automatically enrolling everyone into a lottery.
YES! Increases the likelihood that options schools will serve the entire community not just those who are familiar with admissions complexities. Will help mitigate the current culture of exclusivity at ATS and HB.		Arguments about the need for "parental involvement" in lottery schools justifying the current system is simply an effort to exclude children whose families may not be involved. This is about students, not parents.

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<p>I think that's a great idea. It gives students a chance to more immediately change to a location that would work best for them.</p>	<p>I don't like that many families choose some option schools because of school scores, not because of school philosophy. This unfortunate approach floods the lottery and lowers the chance of getting in for those kids who want to get in. I suppose the earlier or more frequently that a lottery opens, the lower the chance that students who want the change will get in.</p>	<p>When students have to wait to apply they may be more likely to turn an opening down. They adjust to their current school and decide to "stay put" which increases the odds that kids who really want to get in can get in.</p>
	<p>This is likely to nudge lottery winners into school options that may not be appropriate to them.</p>	<p>It is better that lottery's serve the people who are genuinely interested enough to apply</p>
		<p>So you're saying parents of pre-K kids would need to OPT OUT of the option schools? No, I disagree. I would hate to think that a careless/not paying attention parent would "accidentally" get in to an option school when there are parents who are EAGER to proactively enroll their kids in options schools.</p>
	<p>Disagree strongly with this proposal. Students/families who wish to attend these schools know about the lotteries and enter if they are interested. The proposal would add scores of students, many of whom have no interest in attending, to the lottery and would further decrease the already slim chances of acceptance for those who really want to attend.</p>	

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		This is not a good idea. Its not clear what it will accomplish- particularly in terms of K, having to be registered by Apr. 15th. Parents who are with it enough to register their child for K by Apr 15th are with it enough to apply to an option school if so desired.
	NO...stupid idea...who made APS God?	DO NOT ADOPT this change
		why would you do that when many parents are happy sending their children to neighborhood schools and don't want
easy, no deadlines	Like myself, many parents may have no interest in option schools, so loitering their children is a waste of time	
	No	
	This is a risk for immersion schools. Families who aren't truly committed pull out midway through elementary school and the program suffers	
DNK		
	I think it decreases the likelihood that kids who need a special place for them get it.	
Sounds like a nightmare.	Option schools don't have the 'neighborhood' reinforcement. Parents who have CHOSEN the program are by definition motivated and invested. It's not random. This is important when you take a child from the neighborhood group.	No! This is stupid. Parents who are motivated to find the right program for the needs of their child should apply.
Yes -- need to level the policy for those who are not hyper aware		
	takes too much decision making away from families	escalating costs of transportation
Yes - will improve diversity at option schools		

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		<p>Why? Not every parent or student seeks those options. What is wrong with a neighborhood school and the desire to attend the school closest to your home? That is why people buy houses in certain neighborhoods. It is a waste of money to automatically enter children in a lottery if there is not desire to attend another school. People need to make an affirmative effort to enter a lottery and really think out the choice.</p>
		<p>no, most people choose their neighborhood schools and stop pushing choice on everyone</p>
<p>I think option schools are morally indefensible if seats cant be provided for every student who wants the option</p>		
		<p>NO</p>
		<p>This is not a good idea as people who specifically want options schools might not get them.</p>
<p>Greater equity of access (not up to a parent to be "on-the-ball" or "savvy" about the offerings)</p>	<p>Some programs are very unique and require a fair amount of buy-in; I'd hate to see families unhappy if their child is offered a spot and they enroll child at a school they would not have selected otherwise</p>	<p>This would be a very complicated process. Is there a way to have parents rank their preferred schools prior to the lottery? So there's a better chance of getting a good match? Whenever you solicit information for a newly registered student, could this just be part of the same form?</p>