

Should APS include every student entering the following grades in a lottery for option schools? • Kindergarten • Grade 6		
Strengths	Challenges	Other thoughts
Equal Access	This would be impossible. Many students don't enroll until well after April. Parents may not decline spots on option lottery for many reasons, despite their intent to attend their neighborhood school.	
	No way! Option schools are to meet the desires, not chances, of parents. I know families who put in for HB or ATS assuming they won't win the lottery, but figuring they'll look harder at it if they have the option. These programs should be geared towards student or family driven needs, not chance! Many students NEED the extra supportive culture at HB. Forget those who just think it's cool or who don't like overcrowding at home school. Fix the crowding and take away that poor reason.	Option schools are harder in that they separate kids from neighbors. Often they start earlier and have longer bus rides. You want parents who are driven by the desire or need for what the school offers so that the more disparate community of parents will stay involved!
every student has an equal chance of getting into the program	communication and community understanding of the process; outreach to minority communities and promoting the potential benefits of the option program and encouraging them to accept the seat if they are selected	if this approach is taken, it should be done with specific goals for balanced diversity and monitored each year for effectiveness of fostering diverse option schools as well as the impacts on neighborhood school demographics

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<p>This is a good idea to overcome the problem that families with ESL parents, or parents under a lot of stress, or recent immigrants may not know about the choice schools and may not apply. This would encourage greater SES and racial diversity in the choice schools and that seems like a real benefit.</p>		
		<p>No. Not every kid wants to attend immersion or montessori. Why create extra staff and extra work?</p>
	<p>This seems like a lot of extra work for the county. If people are happy with their neighborhood school, then why do you need to go through the process of doing a county wide lottery. How long would you give the parents to make the decision or pass up the opportunity? If you have limited slots in one program, then it seems like you'd have to ask for first, second, third choices in order to make sure you knew the parents intent when you get to that child on the ranked list.</p>	
		<p>For Immersion this could be detrimental to the program. We spend lots of time explaining the program and it's benefits. Despite that not all parents are interested in an immersion education.</p>

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	I think that parents/students need to take the time to apply. I would like to see that those that really want/need a specialized program get in.	
This would be a way of leveling the playing field for students whose parents are not immersed in public school policies (i.e., students whose parents may not speak English, who may be struggling with several part-time jobs, etc.)		
Sure...as long as you allow students the ability to opt out of the option school upon selection in the lottery, if they would prefer to go to their neighborhood school.		
Yes to the simple lottery with NO preferences in admissions.	It seems you don't need to include everybody in the lottery. That will require several rounds for placement as families decide what choices to accept.	Why not limit the lottery to only those kids who don't want to go to their default neighborhood school?
		No. Concentrate on improving communication and less on social engineering via policy. Don't compound one failure with another.

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<p>No - OPTION schools are not about convenience. There should be a committed student and a committed family to a particular option.</p>	<p>Not everyone knows about ALL their OPTIONS.</p>	<p>Hopefully this process will meet it's goal of being clear and transparent for all families to understand what OPTION schools are available for their child. A good option is to include a "Question" on every students kinder & 6th grade application where the family MUST select all the lotteries they would like to be included in. This ensures families awareness of what is available.</p>
<p>gives folks that don't know about the options more choice</p>	<p>may put people into choice schools that they don't really want, but they don't really know what they want. disadvantages those parents and students that really want the choice option.</p>	<p>there should be more info provided to K and grade 6 parents about the differences in the programs offered. It is hard to understand what the differences are and how they look in the day to day from reading a website.</p>
	<p>Bad idea. ATS, Campbell, Drew and the immersion schools fit certain families. Immersion in particular. Only families that are really interested should apply.</p>	
<p>Yes, this should improve transparency for these programs</p>		
		<p>Do they just get assigned to a random option school if they "win" the lottery, or do they get to choose? Can they request to go into the lottery for a specific option school? There should be some way to consider students who actively want to attend a specific option school.</p>

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	Not every student should be entered into a lottery. Parents who take the initiative and look into their options should not be pushed out because uninterested families lucked into a lottery selection. Many of the options schools are only great due to the parental involvement and interest in that option. You will dilute the involved parents and make the program devolve into nothing special.	Bad policy, will ruin the parental strength and investment in those programs.
Great for all county students to be included in the lottery.	Great amount of overhead for county to manage lottery when not all students may be interested.	Interested families shall apply to interested schools
		Grade 6 should be guaranteed admission for those completing grade 5 at an option school
If students want to attend a certain school they should be able to lottery into it.		
NO		
		Everyone must apply - no automatic entries
	No for immersion, the community needs committed families to succeed. Passive families that get in and "try it" are more likely to leave and you will see declining enrollment. Immersion needs to be a positive commitment from day 1.	

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	This will be an administrative nightmare.	How will APS know which immersion lottery to enter the K students into with out speaking to the family to find out whether the child (not the family) is spanish dominant or not. While I understand the problem it feels like we are catering too much to a perceived population - are we sure there is a community of students who are not attending option schools b/c their parents are not aware of the options.
None	How would APS measure demand for a program in this scenario?	This really needs to be thought out better. There is not practical. APS uses applications to a program to guage demand. If applicants need not "opt-in", how would APS calculate unmet demand for programs? Bad idea.
	Currently, families who chose Key/Claremont seek out immersion deliberately. If APS changes the system so that all incoming K students are automatically entered into the lotteries for all option schools, there may be a large number of families who try out immersion simply because they got a lottery spot; they may not be as committed to immersion, the support it takes, and making it work all the way through 5th grade (and beyond). If the numbers dwindle as the grades go up, so does the program.	Immersion takes effort on the part of the whole family. We need families who are enthusiastic and committed to supporting their child's immersion-learning, even once it gets harder (around 3rd grade)

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	Imagine the time it would take to align kids to school if this were implemented	This proposal would require a considerable amount of time, cost, and staff to implement with questionable benefit
I'm really intrigued by this idea. Smart way help to address the current concern that kids of uninformed/uneducated/uninvolved parents miss out on the great opportunities out there. This is a really good way to even that playing field	Do these choice schools necessitate a high level of parent buy-in and a higher level motivation for success? Opening this up to "accidental winners" could set them up for failure and dilute the overall success of these schools if not properly vetted and initiated.	Perhaps the universal lottery is a "right to apply" which then triggers an interview process, so winners fully understand and are prepared for the expectations involved with admission?
This is the worst idea presented. Effectively forcing people to apply to an option program is fundamentally flawed. The option programs thrive due in large part to families proactively choosing the school culture. There are no strenghts here.	Difficult to manage. Puts option programs at significant risk of losing the culture. Takes away personal responsibility/accountability.	Alternatives are to improve communication about options available. Not forcing folks into lotteries. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!
May be a good idea for ATS, but NOT the other options.	NO- especially for immersion. As a family in an Immersion school, I feel strongly that the enrolled families have to be dedicated to the idea of immersion. I'm afraid that some will come "because they won a spot" or because it is too much effort to opt out. This may take a spot from someone who really wanted it, and the families who are not committed are more likely to pull out years into the process when it is too late for an interested person to join.	This creates SO much work for APS, and delays for families. A family interested in immersion but who doesn't get in would have to wait to find out if people who won the lottery decline their spots. Then they have to decide between just picking a sure thing (their neighborhood school) vs waiting in limbo for what they really want-- neither is appealing.

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That would be the fair way for all.	making all parents aware of choices of optionj schools	
NONE- Option schools are just that OPTIONS. Parents should enter the lottery if they wish, but not be forced to do so and then opt out. That doesn't make sense	It makes the process of evaluating space, enrollment projections, etc. too complicated. It doesn't make sense	Make the process easier to enter the lottery, but don't enter all K and 6 students. Not a good idea.
Appears fair. Could end over-concentration of N. Arlington students at ATS that I've heard of but don't know for sure exists.	Will cause confusion, make it hard for schools to address parent questions during a busy time of year. Good chance that more students will give schools a try that are a bad fit and then transfer out.	Might require the lottery to be done earlier in the year. I'm not sure I understand the rationale.
		No, don't do this. Going to take a lot more APS resources. We already spend too much time and \$ on the option schools, and so few students go to them. Focus on improving the neighborhood schools, where most kids go.
I support this idea, but would suggest allowing families to opt out before the lottery if they know they want to attend their neighborhood school.		
	Families who were not interested in an options school, but get in via a lottery and accept the spot may take a spot away from another student/family that is very committed to the option school focus. Having students/families that are not as passionate/dedicated as those who seek out the option school would likely impact the school culture.	

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		yes
	No. This is a terrible idea. It removes the option!	
Supposed equality but the complications and indifference by some will far outweigh the benefit.	Too complicated. People may not give responses back.	I would leave the option school lottery available to those who care enough to apply. Those who care and want it and are willing to take the time and effort should get it.
NONE. There is no substantive benefit to this change	This would be an administrative nightmare. No one will opt out as it will take an affirmative action without any benefit. You will have kids on the list for immersion and ATS who have no desire for those programs. Worse you may end up with students who chose a program unsuitable for them just because they got a high number. This will hurt students who need the program and the programs themselves.	This is obviously an effort to increase awareness at option schools for certain neighborhoods. If you want to increase diversity at ATS you could have a lottery similar to the HB one with neighborhood limits. The better answer is to work to better inform these neighborhoods. Even if someone wins the lottery, there is no assurance that they will then have the information to pick the school that is best for them. I only see a negative impact on instruction and with additional costs
Increased diversity and opportunity for all students	More waitlist movement	If APS goes this route, it should prevent ATS students from entering HB lottery.
	Why offer option schools to families that might not be interested and take the opportunity away from others?	
Helps maintain equity in the process for families that may have more challenges understanding the available options.	One of	To clarify, for example, every student would be put in the lottery, and parents could then choose from neighborhood school, plus option schools they "lotteried" into?

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		<p>Recommend not including every student in a lottery. This seems to be a waste of resources and energy. Requiring those students/parents interested in availing themselves of option schools to enter into a lottery is a bare minimum of initiative to require students/parents to demonstrate for this additional opportunity. Those students and parents with significant interest and likely to most utilize these resources will register. No do not automatically include everyone - should have to sign up.</p>
<p>May help those with less resources or knowledge of the APS system.</p>	<p>Will be operationally demanding on the school staff close to the start of the school year as students move in/out of the area and change minds. This proposal also encourages parents to sign up for an option school purely because they were lottery in but not really interested in the instructional focus. This disadvantages those who are really interested in immersion but couldn't get a spot - the lottery in child can transfer out at later year but the child interested in immersion couldn't transfer in.</p>	