2022-2023
High School Application Process
School District of Philadelphia

https://www.philasd.org/studentplacement/services/school-selection/

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Overview

• One (1) application submitted online

• September 16th thru November 3rd

• Choose up to five (5) Philly public high schools
  • Charter and private schools excluded from process

• Criteria-based schools have specific admission criteria based on 6th and 7th grade performance
  • PSSAs, attendance, grades

• Essay – not used this year for criteria-based schools

• Letters of recommendation - not used this year for criteria-based schools
The LeGare Consent Decree

• Each student with an IEP, 504 Plan or English Language Learner (ELL) has an equal opportunity to attend criteria based high schools and programs

• Students may not be excluded on the basis of admission criteria if they can participate successfully and given reasonable accommodations

• The family will be assisted by the special education team and counselor in identifying the accommodations needed for the student to be successful and in recommending modifications and waivers of admission criteria.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Admission Policy</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Catchment Schools   | - Open for students who live within the school’s attendance boundary  
                      - Students who live outside a school’s attendance area must apply.  
                      - Admission is based upon space availability  
                      - Selection via electronic lottery  
|                     | - Students living within Meade’s boundaries are given first preference for enrollment at Vaux High School (until class is full)  
                      - Students who do not live in boundaries can choose to attend their neighborhood high school.                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Citywide Schools    | - Accepts students from across the city  
                      - Selection via electronic lottery  
|                     | - Constitution High School  
                      - School of the Future  
                      - Dobbins  
                      - Mastbaum  
                      - Randolph  
                      - The U School                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Criteria-Based Schools | - “Magnet Schools”  
                      - Unique admission criteria  
                      - School based teams evaluate the applicant and make admission decisions  
|                     | - Masterman  
                      - Bodine  
                      - FLC  
                      - Parkway CC  
                      - Academy at Palumbo  
                      - SLA  
                      - Engineering & Science                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
Special Admission Schools

General Admission Criteria

Grades       A’s and B’s in core subjects (best from 6th or 7th grade)
PSSA Scores  TBA
Attendance   95% or better (excused absences not counted against students)
CityWide Schools

- Admission to City Wide schools is lottery based
  - Examples:
    - School of the Future
    - Dobbins
    - Randolph
    - Mastbaum
    - The U School
    - Constitution
CityWide Schools- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Schools

- Schools offering programs providing intensive professional instruction in over 120 programs in 40 different career fields
- 10th-12th grade students pick a specific field of study and receive over 1000 hours of instruction in that field
  - Dobbins
  - Randolph
  - Mastbaum
  - Swenson
  - The Workshop School
  - Some neighborhood schools have programs

https://www.philasd.org/cte/
Neighborhood School-Vaux Big Picture

- 2300 Master Street
- Project-based learning model
- Internship work experiences from 10th-12th grade

https://www.vauxbpp.org/
Interviews

• Call SLA to schedule; Letter received for others

• Dress appropriately

• **Absolutely** be on time

• Be prepared to talk about strengths, weaknesses, interest in the school, any projects they have completed, their community involvement, etc.

• Address attendance or tardy record, if a concern

• Address the disciplinary record, if a concern
Letters of Recommendation

• Required for special admission schools

• Highly suggested for citywide schools

• **Two non-family members that know student well and can attest to their character**
  - Teachers
  - Principals
  - After school/summer club leaders
  - Faith-based leaders
Questions to Ask Yourself…

• Am I/is my child a qualified candidate for the schools of our choice?
• Do I/does my child benefit from a smaller setting or a larger setting?
• What electives/extra-curricular activities are available?
• What will be the travel time? Is my child an early riser? Will s/he want to go to and get out of school earlier?
• Where will my/my child’s learning needs best be met?
• Who can I talk to/When can I talk about specific questions/concerns I have?
How to Apply?

- https://www.philasd.org/studentplacement/services/school-selection/

Mr. Adam will conference with all students and families multiple times before submission deadline to confirm choices
Charter Schools

- Different application process than district schools
- Almost all charter schools used the same application website:
  - https://applyphillycharter.org/
  - Opens September and closes in January
  - Lottery based- decisions in January/February
- Some charters use their own websites or documentation for admission
## What’s Next?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Counselor Meetings- student or parent to review transcripts and schools | Ongoing with all 8th graders | - Mr. Adam’s class  
- Mr. Adam’s office  
- Phone or zoom conferences |
| High School Updates                     | Ongoing            | - Homeroom  
- Counseling class  
- Google classroom  
- Class Dojo |
<p>| High School Speakers                    | Ongoing            | - Homeroom/Counseling Class                   |
| Open House Information                  | Ongoing            | - Google classroom                            |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Step</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application window opens for public schools</td>
<td>September 16th at 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual High School Fair- <a href="http://phillyhighschoolfair.com/">http://phillyhighschoolfair.com/</a></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Person High School Fair</td>
<td>October 14th and 15th</td>
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<td>(after school trip 4-6 on the 14th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application window closes- top 5 choices on school selection</td>
<td>November 4th at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of Acceptances!!</td>
<td>January 13th 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students removed from waiting lists to fill available openings</td>
<td>January 13th-February 2nd</td>
</tr>
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Other Resources

- **The High School Directory & School Selection Website** –

- **Virtual High School Fair** - [https://www.phillyhighschoolfair.com/](https://www.phillyhighschoolfair.com/)

- **School Visit / Shadow** – set up directly with target school
  - Check to see if they have virtual open houses

- **Charter Schools**- most applications through [applyphillyphillyphillycharter.org](http://applyphillyphillyphillycharter.org)
  - **Some schools do not participate- you must look at specific admission requirements on school’s websites**
Questions