

# **The Placement Process for Citywide Special Education Programs**

Students who receive their special education services in a citywide special education program, continue to be recognized as general education students first. All K-12 students and families will start the placement process by visiting schools and programs during Visit Our Schools Month. Schools will be able to share information about citywide programs in their building. All families will turning in a school request card and this will indicate your preference of schools for your student.

**Placement for students receiving special education services will follow the MPS district timelines established by Student Placement Services. Please reference communications from Student Placement for updates and additional information.**

Information regarding the school request process can be found here:

**Elementary and Middle School:** [https://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/school\\_placement\\_protocol](https://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/school_placement_protocol)

**High School:** [https://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/school\\_placement\\_process](https://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/school_placement_process)

For in person assistance:

**Student Placement Services** - 1250 W. Broadway Ave., 55411 Ph: 612.668.1840

**New Families Center** - 3345 Chicago Ave. S., 55407 Ph: 612.668.3700

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Open until 6 p.m. Tuesdays

**Email:** [sps.department@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:sps.department@mpls.k12.mn.us)

## **Important Information to know for students served in citywide programs:**

- Students continuing to receive services in a citywide program will be placed as often as possible in the citywide program pathway closest to their current school unless a change is made in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Students/Families may request their community school through the lottery process if the school is different than the current school by completing and submitting a school request card..
- Students/Families may request a school outside of their attendance area or zone, and will have a lesser priority than students living in the actual attendance area. In the event that the requested school or citywide program is over-requested, students will be placed via a lottery according to the placement priorities.
- If the requested school is outside of the families transportation zone, families will be responsible for daily transportation. To identify if bussing is available to the school of choice, please use the school choice website [HTTP://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us](http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us) paying special attention to the headings school options with or without transportation.

## **FAQ's for Student Placement & Transitions**

**If my student is transitioning to middle or high school, do I have to fill out the school request card, or will the special education department place my child?**

Students will be placed as often as possible in the citywide program pathway closest to their current community school. Families will receive a letter in December identifying the placement. If a family is satisfied with the placement no request card is needed and enrollment will automatically occur. Students/Families may complete a request their community middle

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|   | <p>or high school through the lottery process if there is interest in a school different from the placement by completing and submitting a school request card.</p>   |
| <p><b>What are the school options I have for my child? Are the options any different for a child who receives special education services versus a child who does not?</b></p> | <p>Students who receive the majority of their special education services in general education have all the same school options as their general education peers. To research your school options, please visit the online Minneapolis Public Schools Pre-K-8 School Request Center at <a href="https://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/">https://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/</a> or at the Visit our Schools website <a href="http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us/visit_our_schools">http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us/visit_our_schools</a></p> <p>Students who receive the majority of their educational services in a separate special education program can work through their IEP case manager to discuss options for programs. Placement into Citywide Special Education classroom is determined by needs of student and geographical location. During the months of November, December and January, the special education department will be working with Associate Superintendents and various Departments to make final decisions of locations of special education programming for the upcoming school year.</p> |
| <p><b>Who can assist me with making decisions?</b></p>  | <p>Your IEP team will have the best information and will work with you regarding placement decisions for your student. Attending school information nights is a good ways to learn more about schools that might be options for your student.<br/><a href="http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us/visit_our_schools">http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us/visit_our_schools</a></p> <p>The Special Education Advisory Council has many parents that are willing to talk about their transition experiences and schools their students have attended. To contact members of SEAC - <a href="http://speced.mpls.k12.mn.us/advisory_council_2">http://speced.mpls.k12.mn.us/advisory_council_2</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Where on the MPS website can I find a current list of schools that will continue to have a citywide programs for the 2017-18 school year?</b></p>                       | <p>Decisions about the placement of special education programs for the upcoming school year will be finalized early in the new year.. When final decisions are made, you will be able to find the information at the MPS special education department website - <a href="http://speced.mpls.k12.mn.us/">http://speced.mpls.k12.mn.us/</a> Current service locations can be found <a href="http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us/visit_our_schools">http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us/visit_our_schools</a> by clicking on the Special Education link on the right hand side of the page and on the Special Education web page.</p>  |
| <p><b>If my community school is not a good fit for my child, what other choices do I have?</b></p>  | <p>Families in MPS have many options available. To see all the school options available for your address, please visit the online Minneapolis Public Schools Pre-K-8 School Request Center at <a href="https://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/">https://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/</a> or <a href="https://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/">https://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/</a> for High Schools.</p>  |
| <p><b>Where can I get comparative information about what is available at what schools (class sizes, student to teacher ratio, ASD teachers</b></p>                            | <p>For a comprehensive information about each school, go to <a href="http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us/visit_our_schools">http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us/visit_our_schools</a> . All of our schools have special education services and related services, like speech, occupational therapy and School Social Work services..</p>  |

**vs. special education teachers, availability of programs such as Lunch Bunch, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and social groups)?**