

Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program (JBBP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

“SET ASIDE” FOR JBBP SEATS

What is the new “set aside” for JBBP seats?

For each Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program (JBBP at Clarendon and Rosa Parks) the district will assign up to 10 out of 44 seats to students who are proficient in the Japanese language and the remaining 34 out of 44 seats will be open to students who have not demonstrated proficiency in the Japanese language. This set aside only applies at the Kindergarten level.

Why was the set aside established for JBBP?

The set aside was established to support peer Japanese language modeling at Clarendon. The same set aside was granted to Rosa Parks.

Are there similar set asides for other language programs in the District?

There are similar set asides for dual language immersion programs in the District. This is the first and only set aside for a non-immersion language program.

Do you need to have a Japanese ethnic background in order to be eligible for the set aside?

No, anyone can be assessed to demonstrate language proficiency and become eligible for the set aside.

Can my child apply to both applicant pools?

No, your child will be placed into either the Japanese proficient pool or non-proficient pool in Japanese. However, your child will be able to apply to either one or both JBBPs. Your child’s application will be placed within the pool determined by the Japanese assessment for each JBBP.

How do assignment “tie-breakers” work with the set-aside? For example, would a sibling get priority over a student who is proficient in Japanese, even if that sibling is not proficient?

The applicant pool is divided into cohorts, one with students who have demonstrated Japanese proficiency and one with students who have not. Siblings would get a tie-breaker in either cohort for the program at the sibling’s school. The sibling would have a tie-breaker over other students without a tie-breaker in the same cohort. This logic applies to all city-wide school tie-breakers, i.e., siblings, SFUSD PreK, or test score area.

What if the set aside seats are not filled? Will those seats remain empty?

The goal of the “set aside” is to have 10 students as peer language models in each JBBP. Staff will evaluate how many students were eligible for the set aside for each program. The unfilled set aside seats will be converted to non-set aside seats before the first day of school.



If a child who is proficient in Japanese language leaves the class mid-year, does that spot need to be filled by another child proficient in Japanese?

No, the seat can be filled by a Japanese proficient student or a non- proficient student.

JAPANESE ASSESSMENT TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY

How can my child demonstrate proficiency in Japanese?

To demonstrate proficiency, students who indicate Japanese on the home language survey and listed at least one JBBP on the enrollment application will be scheduled for an assessment in Japanese. Parents/guardians may also request that their child be assessed if they do not indicate Japanese on the home language survey. The assessment is not timed and results will be shared with the parents/guardians shortly after the assessment.

What will the assessment measure and how?

The assessment will be conducted in Japanese and will evaluate your child's oral language skills in Japanese. It will not include a reading and writing portion. It will be administered one to one with your child by a district staff who is proficient in Japanese.

Can my child apply to JBBP if she/he does not demonstrate proficiency in Japanese?

Yes, your child can still apply. She/he will be placed in the group of students that have not demonstrated proficiency (34 out of 44 seats).

My Japanese speaking child will get a sibling priority. Would she/he need to take the assessment?

Each sibling's language proficiency is treated separately so she/he would need to take the assessment so that she/he can be placed in the appropriate applicant pool. In either pool, she/he will still have the sibling tie breaker.

What if my child takes the assessment but does not demonstrate Japanese proficiency?

She/he will automatically be placed in the non-proficient applicant pool.