District Rolls out Changes for SF School Assignment System

Boundaries redrawn for first time in over 30 years

August 27, 2010 (San Francisco) - Last March, the San Francisco Board of Education approved a redesign of the district’s student assignment system, which will take effect with the incoming classes of kindergartners, sixth and ninth graders in the fall of 2011. This week, Superintendent Carlos Garcia presented the board with recommendations for new attendance area boundaries, elementary to middle school feeder patterns, and a new transportation policy.

This is the first time in over 30 years that the boundaries for most of San Francisco’s public elementary schools have been fully revised. The new attendance areas are geographic borders drawn around most elementary schools throughout the district (58 of the 72 elementary schools) and will help families with elementary students seek placement at a school near their home if they wish. Families are not required to choose their attendance area school, nor can they be guaranteed a placement at their attendance area school.

Also, for the first time, SFUSD will be creating a kindergarten through eighth grade assignment option for families, called “feeder patterns.” Fifth grade students will get an initial placement offer based on the elementary school they attend, regardless of where they live.

Superintendent Garcia explained that the feeder patterns will give students the option to continue on to middle school with their peers from elementary school, and help educators from those elementary and middle schools collaborate to provide students better transitioning to middle school.

Garcia noted that many families have expressed a desire for more predictability. The new approach will give families a ‘right of first refusal’ for a spot at a middle school. If they don’t want that spot, they can participate in the choice process for other middle schools. Under the previous system, students could come from up to 72 different schools into one middle school.

“As a former middle school principal,” says Garcia, “I also know it’s a great benefit when you are able to coordinate with just a handful of elementary schools, and it helps the students.”

The district is now asking community members to share their feedback before the boundaries and feeder patterns are finalized. The board is scheduled to approve boundaries, feeder patterns, and a transportation policy on September 24, 2010, in time to roll out the information for families applying for the 2011 school year.

All of the proposals, including maps and data, are available at www.sfusd.edu/Enroll<http://www.sfusd.edu/Enroll>.
The district is hosting a series of community meetings to share information and gather feedback and has posted a survey online. Future meetings will be held on the following dates:

**Saturday, August 28 / 9:30 am - 11:30 am**
Francis Scott Key Elementary / 1530 43rd Ave

**Tuesday, August 31 / 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**
Everett Middle School / 450 Church St

**Wednesday, September 1 / 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**
Marina Middle School / 3500 Fillmore St

**Monday, September 13 / 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**
SFUSD 555 Franklin St
Board of Education’s Ad Hoc Committee on Student Assignment

**Tuesday, September 28 / 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**
SFUSD Board of Education / 555 Franklin St

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