PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

New Elementary Attendance Areas for San Francisco Public Schools

September 30, 2010 (San Francisco) - The San Francisco Board of Education has approved new elementary school attendance areas. The new school borders will be used as a factor in determining student placement into San Francisco’s public elementary schools.

In the school placement policy adopted by the Board last spring, elementary school students will be assigned to schools based on the choices parents submit in their application. When demand for a school exceeds capacity, the district will use a new set of tie-breakers to determine which students will be offered placement in those high-demand schools. Where a child lives will play a more prominent role than in the previous system.

This week’s vote marks the first time since the early 1980s that attendance areas for elementary schools have been redrawn. The district has since closed and moved some schools, and several schools did not have attendance areas before this new set was approved.

Although every family entering kindergarten will have an attendance area school, some elementary/K-8 schools will not have an attendance area, called “city-wide schools,” and will not offer a local preference to students.

The new placement process will take effect with the incoming classes of kindergartners, sixth and ninth graders in the fall of 2011. As part of rolling out the new system this year, the district will also be developing elementary-to-middle school feeder patterns and a new transportation policy.

Here is how the majority of school assignments for kindergarten, sixth and ninth grade will take place for the 2011-2012 school year under the new placement policy.

Elementary Schools
Families will submit an application form that includes their home address and the names of the schools they would like to apply to listed in order of preference. The assignment process will try to assign students to their highest ranked school. All applications will be processed at the same time, and all applicants will receive a single assignment offer. Students will be assigned to schools using the preferences listed in order below; students who are not assigned to one of their choices will be assigned to their attendance area school if it still has openings after the choice process, or to the school closest to where they live that has openings.

1) Siblings - younger siblings of students who are enrolled in and will be attending the school during the year for which the younger sibling requests attendance.
2) SFUSD PreK - students who live in the attendance area of the school and are also attending an SFUSD PreK program in the same attendance area.
3) Test score areas - students who reside in areas of the city with the lowest average test score.
4) Attendance Area - students who live in the attendance area of the school.
5) Densely populated attendance areas - students who live in attendance areas that do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate all the students living in the attendance area.
6) All other students.

Middle School
For students entering sixth grade in the fall of 2011, families will use the same application process as in elementary school. Students will be assigned to schools using the following order of preferences:

1) Siblings - younger siblings of students who are enrolled in and will be attending the school during the year for which the younger sibling requests attendance.
2) Test score areas - students who reside in areas of the city with the lowest average test score.
3) All other students.

High School
Families will submit an application form that includes their home address and the names of the schools they would like to apply to listed in order of preference. The assignment system will try to assign students to their highest ranked school. All applications will be processed at the same time, and all applicants will receive a single assignment offer. Students will be assigned to schools using the preferences listed in order below; students who are not assigned to one of their choices will be assigned to their attendance area school if it still has openings after the choice process, or to the school closest to where they live that has openings.

1) Siblings - younger siblings of students who are enrolled in and will be attending the school during the year for which the younger sibling requests attendance.
2) Test score areas - students who reside in areas of the city with the lowest average test score.
3) All other students.

For more information, go to sfusd.edu/enroll.
Attendance area maps can be viewed at: http://sfusd.ggnet.net/files/final-elementary-attendance-areas-map.pdf