

**Assignment Policy for Language Immersion Programs Oct. 2012**

The Cambridge Public Schools will assign students whose parents/guardians choose an immersion program or school in accordance to the Controlled Choice Policy as follows:

1. Kindergarten/Junior Kindergarten assignments for the immersion school and programs will provide assignment priority to students who qualify as either program language dominant or bilingual while controlling for Socio-Economic Status (SES).
  - a. Priority will be given to students who qualify as program language dominant or bilingual. This priority will be equal to the proximity preference offered to the other schools within the school district.
  - b. The SES balance of the grade level must follow the Controlled Choice Policy of the Cambridge Public Schools as then in effect. Currently, as of the date of adoption of this policy, the SES balance of the grade level set forth in the Controlled Choice Policy is within +/- 10% of the district percentage of students qualifying for the federal free and reduced price meals program.
  - c. The waitlist policy for Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten cohorts starting SY 2013-14 will reflect the above assignment policy and provide assignment priority to students who speak the program language until 50% of the enrolled students are program language/bilingual students at which point the waitlist will return to the order followed by other district schools.
  - d. Additionally for language immersion programs within a school (Mandarin Immersion at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School and Olà at King Open School):
    1. Students who have a sibling within either the immersion or the regular program will have priority to both programs.
    2. Junior Kindergarten students will be offered the opportunity to move between the school's immersion and regular programs for their Kindergarten year, prior to the Kindergarten Lottery. Program to program transfers must follow the Controlled Choice Policy as then in effect.

## **Policy for Transition to the Assignment Policy for Language Immersion Programs of October 2012**

Previous admission policies—based only on language—have created SES imbalance in some grades of the immersion school/programs far from the District's goals. To transition to the Assignment Policy for Language Immersion Programs of October 2012:

- a. Implementation will be phased in over two years for the Kindergarten/Junior Kindergarten grade-level.
  - i. For the school year starting in fall 2013 only incoming students will be considered when balancing the JK/K class. The number of pre-assigned<sup>1</sup> students will be subtracted from the total number of seats in for the Kindergarten/Junior Kindergarten grade level in each immersion school/program and the resulting number will be considered 100% of seats for the purposes of applying percentages as described in the policy.
  - ii. For SY 2014-15 and future years, the policy will be applied across all Kindergarten/Junior Kindergarten students as it is in other district schools.
- b. For the grades that were admitted to the immersion schools/programs under previous policies (grade levels admitted before the January lottery of 2013) open seats will be filled from the waitlists giving priority to program language dominant or bilingual students. Each grade's SES balance on October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2012 will be maintained as a baseline and each grade will admit students that do not cause that grade to vary further from the district's policy of SES balance. Further for higher-grade levels, each school/program may have requirements in language proficiency designed to facilitate success for students entering an immersion program.

<sup>1</sup> Pre-assigned students are returning Junior Kindergarten students that become Kindergarteners or Kindergarten students that are retained.