



San Francisco Board of Education
Parent Advisory Council

Report on 2005-2006 Community Outreach Campaign

Appendix: Survey on Student Assignment Policies

In May 2006 PAC members developed a survey addressing student assignment policy issues and options, modeled on an assessment conducted by the SFUSD’s Community Advisory Committee on Student Assignment, but including additional questions as requested by Board of Education members. The PAC’s survey was distributed at a small meeting in the Mission district, a community Fish Fry in Bayview/Hunter’s Point, and school-site meetings at Paul Revere and Cesar Chavez elementary schools. More than 88 people participated in small-group discussions at these events, and we collected 54 surveys from meeting participants.

The survey asked for demographic information including the respondent’s home zip code, schools their children attend, and their ethnic background. It also asked parents about their experience enrolling their children in school, the research they did to select a school and whether they were assigned a school of their choice, and their satisfaction with the support they received from the SFUSD’s Education Placement Center. Finally, the survey asked respondents to show their priorities when choosing a school for their child, and to identify the most important issues that a new student assignment should address. Below is a summary of the survey data.

Surveys Completed	Number	Percent
Cesar Chavez ES	19	35%
Fish Fry Event	14	26%
Mission Event	13	24%
Paul Revere ES	8	15%
Total:	54	

Respondents’ Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Latino	31	57%
African American	11	20%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	7%
White	3	6%
Other, or didn’t answer	5	9%

Did you receive a school you requested?	Number	Percent
Yes	30	56%
No	13	24%
Some yes, some no	6	11%

Children qualify for free or reduced-price meals	Number	Percent
Yes	35	65%
No	13	24%
Don’t know or didn’t answer	6	11%

Parents' priorities about schools and student assignment.

The survey included 13 factors that parents might consider when choosing a school for their child, and asked respondents to indicate their top five priorities. (Please note that the neighborhood break-outs do not show respondents from other zip codes/schools, a total of seven people, but these results are included in the column of "all survey respondents.")

The people who completed the survey resoundingly identified these priorities in choosing a school:

Parents' priorities when choosing a school for their child	Rank among all survey respondents (Number of people who chose this)		Rank among respondents from Mission district - by zip code & schools		Rank among respondents from Bayview/Hunter's Point & Vis Valley - by zip code	
	Rank	Count	Rank	Count	Rank	Count
Special programs such as art, language, technology, etc.	1	(33)	2	(19)	1	(11)
Skilled and experienced teachers and staff	2	(32)	1	(20)	2	(9)
A safe environment in and around the school	3	(26)	3	(18)	3	(8)
Students from diverse ethnic/racial and language backgrounds	4	(19)		(8)	4	(7)
School's performance on standardized tests	5	(18)	4	(12)		(3)
Skilled and experienced principal		(14)	5	(11)		(3)
Availability of before or after-school program		(14)		(9)		(2)
Distance to and from school		(12)		(6)		(3)
School's reputation among friends and/or community		(10)		(5)	5	(4)
Students from families with different levels of family income		(10)		(6)		(2)
Students with different levels of academic achievement		(8)		(5)		(3)
Availability of school bus		(5)		(3)		(1)
Availability of public transportation		(4)		(3)		(1)

The survey then addressed district priorities, and included six factors that the district might consider when setting a new student assignment policy. It asked parents to indicate their top three priorities. Again, the responses showed strong agreement on their priorities:

Parents' priorities for a new student assignment policy	Rank among all survey respondents (Number of people who chose this)		Rank among respondents from Mission district - by zip code & schools		Rank among respondents from Bayview/Hunter's Point & Vis Valley - by zip code	
	Rank	Count	Rank	Count	Rank	Count
Being able to choose a school anywhere in the city	1	(34)	1	(20)	1	(11)
Ensure schools reflect the cultural and economic diversity of the district and are not segregated by ethnicity or other socio-economic factors	2	(32)	2	(18)	2	(10)
Giving preference for students to have a place in neighborhood school, but keeping some spaces open for students from other parts of the city	3	(24)	3	(15)	3	(8)
Giving children from low-income neighborhoods a priority in school assignment		(15)		(11)		(3)
Giving students with low test scores in elementary schools a priority when choosing middle schools		(12)		(8)		(2)
Being guaranteed your child has a place in a school in your neighborhood		(8)		(6)		(1)