

Public School Choice



DRAFT

Why Public School Choice?

- The educational ecosystem continues to see different types of schools and instructional choices being offered by private schools, charter organizations, and on-line learning institutions, and even some traditional public school districts. However, public education, on the whole, needs to adapt much more quickly.




- As Dallas ISD seeks to ensure all students graduate from high school ready for college and career, public school choice will be a mechanism for growing the range of options so that **all Dallas ISD students can attend a best-fit school.**
- Public school choice provides students and families with an increasing array of options that might appeal to particular student interests and aspirations, preferred learning styles, personal circumstances, and values.

Current Inequities

- **Although 12 percent of the student population are exercising choice (magnets, hardship transfers), the current system of choice has inequities**
- **Best magnet schools in the country, but admission criterion preclude many students from access**
- **Magnet school admission and enrollment do not reflect the districtwide student demographics**
 - Among students admitted to a magnet program for 2013-14, 59% were Latino, 19% were black, 12% were white
 - Districtwide, 70% of students are Latino, 24% are black, 5% are white
- **Demand exceeds capacity in the 20 highest-enrollment programs (72% of applicants to the 20 most popular programs were either denied admission or placed on a waitlist for 2013-14)**

Increasing Access to Choice Options

- We need to expand choice options for kids, regardless of geographic constraints or academic ability.
- Future school choice options offered by Dallas ISD may include, but are not limited to: 
- These will be DISD public schools
- A new Office of Transformation and Innovation (OTI) will help expand choice options over the next several years

- Montessori schools
- International Baccalaureate (IB) schools
- Early college programs
- Personalized learning schools
- Community Schools
- Advanced Placement (AP) schools
- Dual-language schools
- Single-gender schools
- Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM)
- Arts
- Business/Entrepreneurship
- Communications
- Government/World Affairs academies
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools
- Military/Leadership academies
- Year 2025 curriculum schools

What's The Common Thread?

- **The Future & Equity Via Voluntary Choice**

This is about closing the opportunity gap!

All children deserve these types of options

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The Promise of Public School Choice

- **Choice can be a game-changer:**
 - Allows us to more meaningfully and more deeply engage students intellectually by tapping into their interests, aspirations, learning styles, personal circumstances, and values.
- **More magnet-type schools to more kids!**
- **Theory of Action:**
 - If students have access to a high-quality, best-fit school, then they will realize their full academic potential.
- **Goal: By 2020, we will have created 35 new choice schools or programs**



Three “Buckets” of Choice Schools

- Transformation Schools
- Innovation Schools
- Expansion Schools



- *Clean, catchy typologies that capture the nuances and complexities of choice schools*
- *Each bucket will have its own separate competitive application process*
- *You can read more about these buckets in the written report*

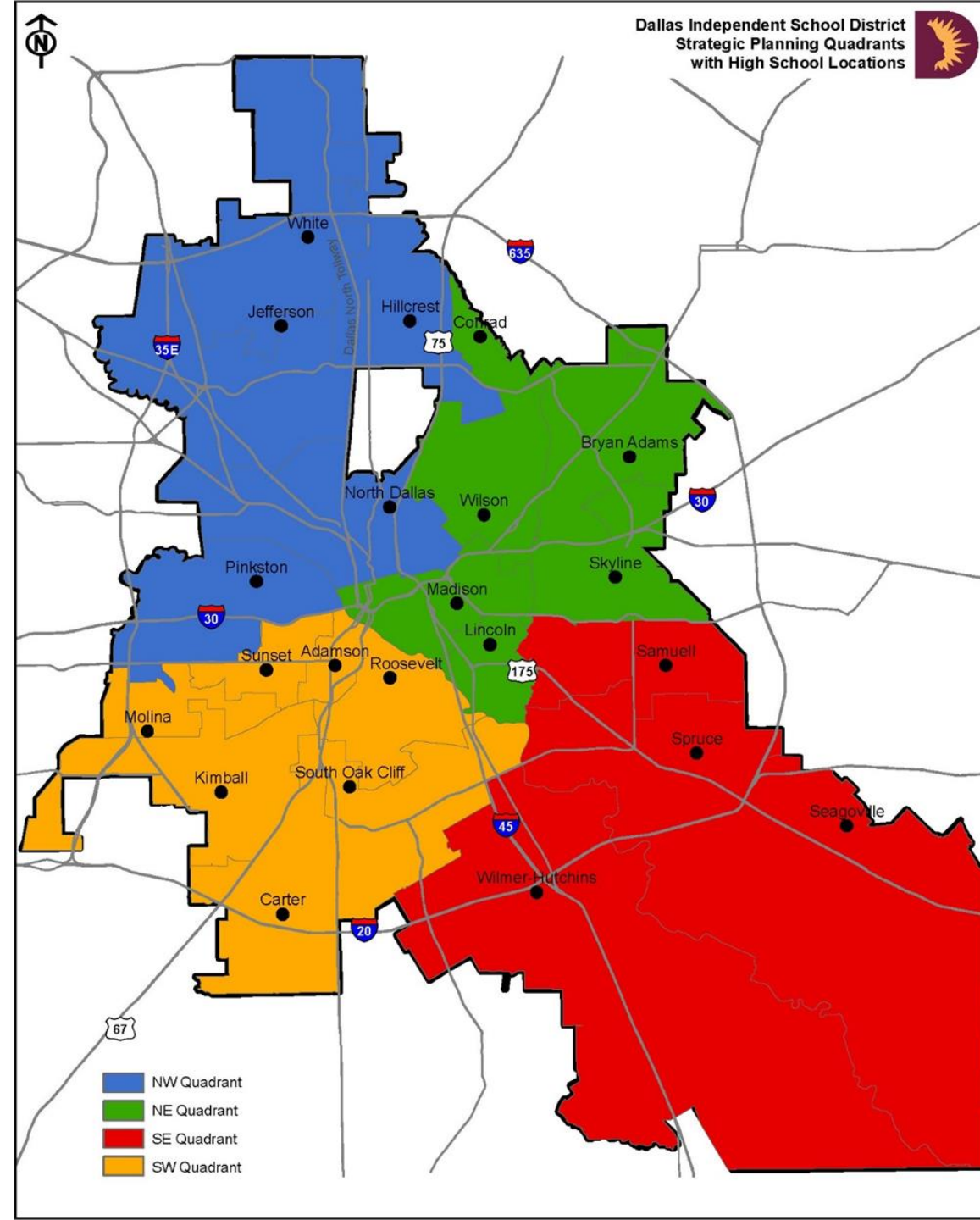
Transformation Schools



- **Dallas ISD has several vacant school buildings that, with some renovations, could become schools again. The district aims to have new building projects on the horizon over the coming years. Additionally, there is non-traditional space throughout the district that could be utilized as well (e.g., additional space at a local community college).**
- **In these vacant/new school buildings and other non-traditional spaces, Transformation Schools will find a home.**
- **New, start-up, fully open enrollment schools**

Geographic Quadrants

- Beginning in August 2016, our goal is to have a total of four (4) Transformation Schools that open – one in each geographic quadrant (*assuming the availability of acceptable facilities*)
- This quadrant approach will help reduce transportation burdens.
- Transformation Schools will be fully open enrollment for students across the entire district, though transportation will only be provided to those students that live within the boundaries of the respective geographic quadrant.
 - Families/students that wish to attend a Transformation School outside of their respective geographic quadrant will be able to do so, but they will have to secure their own transportation.
- Committed to an equitable distribution of choice schools across the district
- The district will work closely with Transformation School applicants to find a facility and location that is beneficial for all.



Creating Attractive Options for ALL

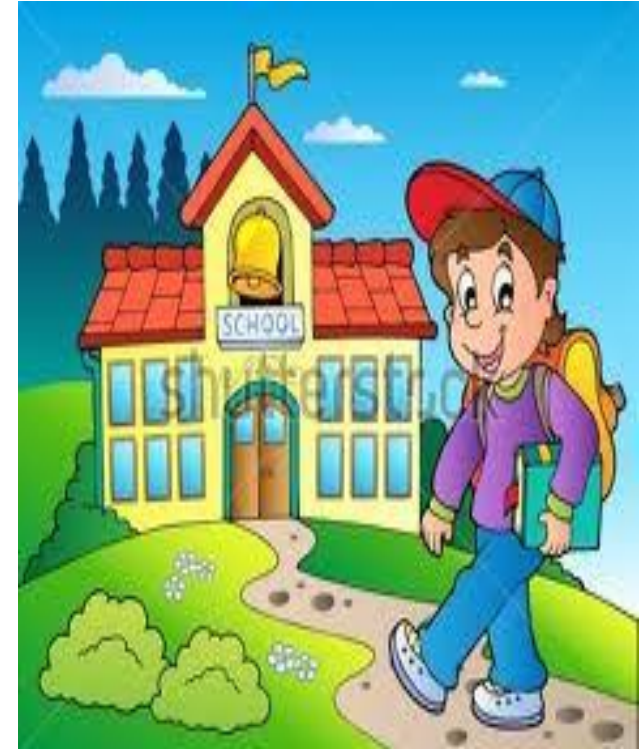
- Transformation Schools should seek to offer instructional approaches, content, and themes that are attractive to Dallas ISD families of all backgrounds, which could lead to more economically diverse student bodies in these schools.
- No Transformation School can have academic admissions requirements
- Transformation Schools will provide evidence demonstrating that the accepted student pool is representative of the initial applicant pool
 - Gender, race/ethnicity, geographic location, and free-and-reduced-price lunch status





Innovation Schools

- Part of our plan should also provide choice options to **neighborhood schools** that want to stay in their existing facilities and keep traditional attendance zones.
- The Innovation School pathway enables neighborhood schools to raise their hands, be heard in a meaningful way, and submit an application to become a Dallas ISD choice school.
- No Innovation School will be able to introduce academic admissions requirements, and no existing neighborhood school will be repurposed into a full open enrollment school.



Innovation Schools



- Every child within the traditional attendance boundary will have a seat at the Innovation School, if the student and family wish.
- If a family zoned to an Innovation School does not prefer the repurposed program and wishes to opt-out, the district will provide transportation for the child to attend another nearby school.

Expansion Schools



- Dallas ISD has existing public choice options, some of which are nationally recognized. Some of these schools may wish to expand their offerings to more students.
- Proposals for expansion will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, depending on various factors such as the quality, feasibility, and cost of the proposal itself, facility availability, equity, transportation implications, enrollment patterns, and the like.
- Existing choice schools with academic admissions requirements can keep them; however, existing choice schools without academic admissions requirements cannot introduce new ones.



Competitive Applications

- **Who can apply?**
 - Existing DISD school leadership teams that want to open a new school or repurpose their existing neighborhood school
 - Proposed DISD school leadership teams
- **Teams should have at least 3 and no more than 5 people (i.e., Principal, AP, and instructional coach)**
 - All teams must have at least one member who is a current principal or assistant principal (either in Dallas ISD or elsewhere; with a valid Texas administrative license) and at least two other team members.
- **Any team members who are not currently employed by Dallas ISD must also apply and receive an offer for a posted district position in addition to submitting the application.**
 - For example, if an individual is a principal or assistant principal outside of Dallas ISD and plans to apply, he/she must complete the traditional Dallas ISD principal/assistant principal application process and receive an offer for the position.
- **All teams must have a proposed advisory board (community members, parents, subject matter experts, etc.)**



Choice Committees

- **Dallas ISD will need to establish various Choice Committees to vet the written applications and interview the applicants in-person.**
- **Make-up of the committees could look different depending on what types of contents/themes/instructional approaches are at stake. The make-up would look something like this:**
 - Two to three senior Dallas ISD leaders to evaluate the strength and capacity of the leadership team and the quality of the proposal.
 - Two subject matter experts appointed by the Office of Transformation and Innovation to evaluate the proposed instructional approaches and/or content/themes.
- **Following application approval, OTI, along with subject matter experts in other district departments, would provide substantial support during their planning year through launch**
 - Facilitated design workshops, site visits, consultancies, access to national models, help with staff recruitment, assisting with procurement and start-up operations, etc.

Staffing

- **Transformation Schools** – no existing staff; leadership teams will select their own staff
- **Innovation Schools** – there will be existing staff. The leadership teams of Innovation Schools will be required to communicate the repurposed programming to all staff members.
 - If the staff member would like to stay teaching at the repurposed choice school, then they will be allowed to do so.
 - If the staff member is not comfortable with the new approach and would like to go elsewhere, the district will provide that opportunity.
- **Expansion Schools** – staff displacement because of repurposing is unlikely in Expansion Schools. After all, Expansion Schools will simply be expanding existing offerings, not repurposing their overall approach.



Guiding Principles

- All students and families should be empowered with an array of attractive public schooling options, regardless of academic ability
- The application process is a manifestation of student, parent, school, and community interests, desires, values, and needs.
- Neighborhood schools should be able to exercise choice autonomies while maintaining traditional neighborhood identities and attendance boundaries.
- Quality matters. The quality of choice schools is just as important as bringing them into existence. This is why the application process will be rigorous and competitive and it is why choice schools' performance will be continually monitored and evaluated.



Guiding Principles

- We are committed to an equitable distribution of choice offerings across the district.
- Parents and communities will be regularly informed about their various choice options and the performance record of those options.
- Diversity matters. The instructional approaches, content, and themes that are offered should be attractive to DISD families of all types of backgrounds.



High School Transportation

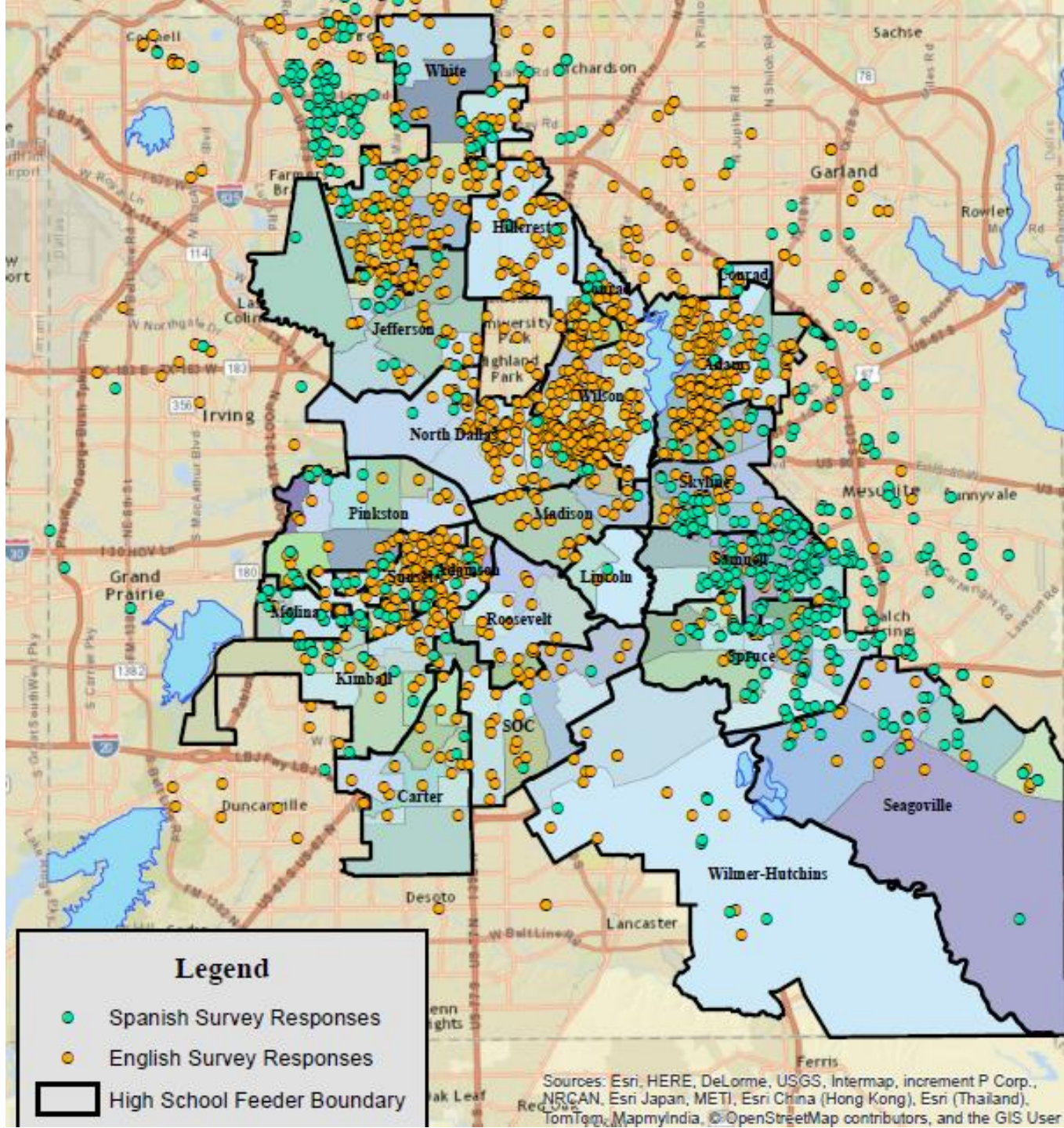
- **All Dallas ISD high schools are technically open to every student in the district; however, transportation is not currently provided.**
 - Practically speaking, for many students, choice without transportation is not truly choice.
- **Therefore, as part of the new public school choice plan, the district will start providing transportation to all high school students within their respective geographic quadrant, beginning in the 2015-16 school year.**
- **This will immediately increase the availability of choices and HB-5 endorsements to high school students. Students that wish to attend a high school outside of their respective geographic quadrant will still have to secure their own transportation.**



Community Engagement

- The district has just released the *2014 Public School Choice Community Survey*, which seeks to understand which neighborhoods are interested in which types of choice schools
 - Survey results will help shape the menu of options on the competitive applications
 - Will also help serve as a guide to school leadership teams as they align their campus choice proposals with community needs/desires
- Found on www.dallasisd.org
- Starting point for more engagement over the next several months





Legend

- Spanish Survey Responses
- English Survey Responses
- High School Feeder Boundary

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User

Public School Choice: Costs & Facilities Needs

- **Programmatic costs**

- Planning year and start-up needs

- **Transportation costs**

- It's not really choice without transportation

- **Facilities costs**

- Transformation Schools – renovate vacant buildings; build new buildings
- Innovation Schools – some may need to be renovated to fit the new model
- Expansion Schools – add-ons

****some may be facility heavy instructional programs (science labs, CTE)*

