



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

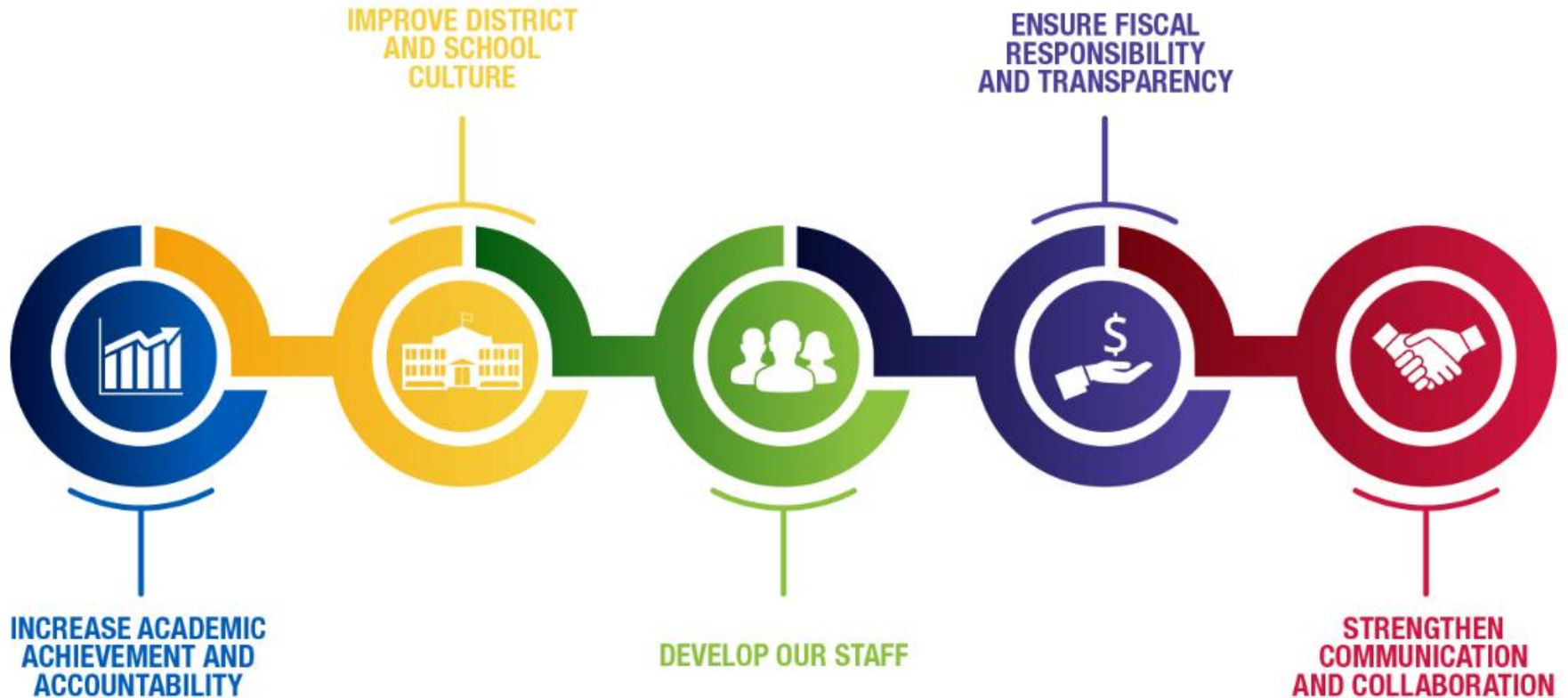
Update with Possible Action on Resolution 2122R-004 Middle School and High School Equity

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Five Priorities for Success



High School Applications

- 71% of 8th graders submitted an application
- SY22–23 saw an increase of approximately 1,400 applicants from MPS schools
- 3,460 students were accepted into one of their choices (an increase of 1,077)
- 2,765 of those applicants were accepted to their first-choice school (80%)
- 191 did not get placed at any of their choices
- 110 students were waitlisted across all schools that used select criteria
- 695 students were not eligible for choice 1 but were ultimately selected for their choices 2–5

First-Choice Schools

School	1st Choice Applications for Fall 2023
Reagan	1,092
King	495
Golda Meir	443
Milwaukee High School of the Arts	319
Riverside	294
Audubon	242
Hamilton	186
Bay View	139
Bradley Tech	124

First-Choice Schools – continued

School	1st Choice Applications for Fall 2023
Milwaukee School of Languages (Spanish partial immersion)	93
Pulaski	76
MacDowell Montessori	61
Vincent	58
South Division	55
Milwaukee School of Languages	53
Green Tree Preparatory	29
Marshall	22
Madison	19
North	17
Obama	17
Washington	15
Alliance	10
Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning	2

Schools That Used the Criteria

School	Students Accepted	Cut Score
Audubon High School	First choice only	4+
Golda Meir School	First choice and current students only	8+
King IB High School	First choice only	5+
MacDowell Montessori School	First choice only	NA
Milwaukee High School of the Arts	First choice only	No cut score/audition required for program placement
Reagan High School	First choice only	10+ (siblings with a 9)
Riverside University High School	First, second, and third choice	No cut score

Non-MPS Applicants

Schools with Largest Number of Applicants

School	Students Applied
Bruce Guadalupe	57
Central City Cyberschool	35
Notre Dame School	22
Saint Marcus Lutheran	19
Saint Roman	27
United Community Center Acosta Middle School	19
Woodlands School	27

Non-MPS Applicants

- 422 total applicants outside of MPS
- 281 accepted
- 24 waitlisted
- 117 not receiving their choices (e.g., made only a single choice; first choices were Reagan, Golda Meir, King; second-choice schools were already filled)

Communications

Letter to families of current 7th grade students:

- Main web story started March 22 for one week; the letter is still in the news section of the website
- *Family Friday Newsletter* – has been included weekly from March 24 to April 14
- Principals received an email March 27 with a letter to send home to families of all 7th graders
- A message was included in *Thursday Updates* to let principals know about sending out the letter
- Additionally, there were social media stories

Communications

Process to address attendance score concerns:

- Discussed concerns with the family
- Explained criteria (e.g., all absences count, below 90% is absentee, options were available to make up work in 2021–22 to recode absences)
- Reviewed student record
- Assisted the family if updates to the school record were an option

Successes/Wins

- Easier application process, resulting in increased number of applications
- The number of students who got into their first choice increased
- Only a few concerns expressed about the essay
- High School Admissions Application Report supported the accuracy and efficiency of the process for the district
- Acceptance letters were sent to families earlier than the originally scheduled date of January 6, 2023

Considerations for the Future

- First-choice matters:
 - Most schools were filled based on the number of students marking the school as first choice
 - Students marking schools as second, third, fourth, or fifth choice did not have access to these schools since the schools were already filled
- Some parents did not understand scoring (e.g., four-point essay score translation to 1 or 2 points, 0 points for standardized testing if below proficient)
- Parents did not understand that attendance includes both excused and unexcused absences (both types are treated equally based on all state accountability measures)

Considerations for the Future

- Support current high school students in understanding that they do not use this enrollment process to change schools in grades 10, 11, or 12
- Rejected applications due to missing information, and not responding when contacted by the district
- Duplicate applications were submitted by families rather than reaching out to change choices
- Families are not having students participate in auditions at Milwaukee High School of the Arts, which are required for placement into a program area

Actions for 2023–24

- Increase communication to schools and families to explain the Five-Choice Process
- Increase communications to families of 6th and 7th graders
- Possibly provide criteria scores to students/families for attendance, report cards, state testing prior to application time to help students make better first choices



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**Thank
You!**