

Do Diversity Policies Impact Choice?

Some families this year were concerned about the new policies implemented at two Stapleton elementary schools and at the Greater Park Hill – Stapleton (GPHS) zone middle schools to increase diversity. High Tech and Inspire implemented a 25% floor of free and reduced lunch (FRL) students

No in-zone students were displaced by out-of-zone students to accommodate this policy. Participating schools added seats to make room, seats that otherwise would not have existed.

for their incoming kindergarten classes. GPHS zone middle schools initiated a floor of 20percent FRL students in their incoming 6th grade classes. Families whose students were waitlisted at those schools voiced concerns that out-of-boundary students with FRL status were

given preference over in-boundary students to meet these goals.

According to Eschbacher, however, no in-zone students were displaced by out-of-zone students to accommodate this policy. Instead, the participating schools added seats to make room, seats that otherwise would not have existed. “It (FRL students) was on top of the zone students taken. The zone number was what they were going to take, no matter what,” said Eschbacher.

Look for more diversification efforts to come to Stapleton schools next year. “Swigert is exploring moving forward with a similar program in the Fall of 2019,” said Principal Shelby Dennis. “Part of that would be expanding our seat options at the same time.” Swigert is working with parent and community groups as part of the decision-making process, she said, “with a goal of creating a really diverse and inclusive school.”

CHOICE OUTCOME

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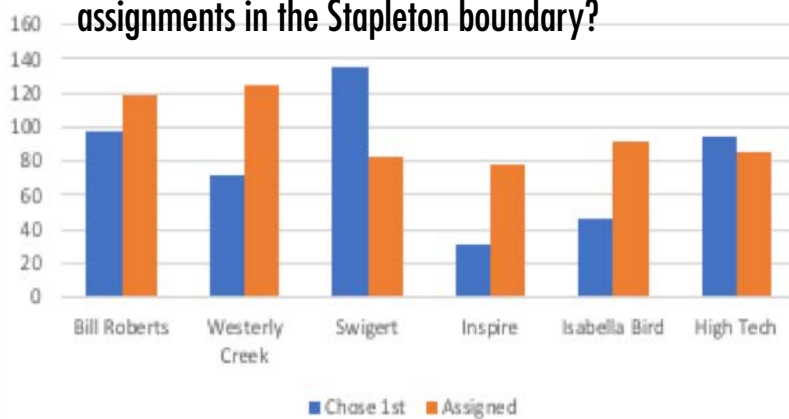
ECE-3 and ECE-4

Children in Denver are not guaranteed a spot in public Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs run by DPS. State funding for ECE is limited and classrooms are prioritized for K-12 students. Nevertheless, over 5,000 families entered the choice system, hoping to get lucky; a 17% increase over last year and a new record for DPS. Here are the match results:

	1st Choice	1st or 2nd Choice	1st, 2nd or 3rd Choice
ECE-3	48%	58%	63%
ECE-4	72%	80%	84%

STAPLETON ELEMENTARY

What were the first choices and assignments in the Stapleton boundary?



At the K-5 level, the *Front Porch* covers only the Stapleton elementary school zone. Other areas in our distribution network, like Lowry and Park Hill, operate on a neighborhood schools model, where most of the students stay at their local boundary school rather than participate in choice.

But in Stapleton, it is always a big deal when the choice results come out. With six elementary schools to choose from, all of which are considered high performing, most families are

happy with the outcome. Those who live within view of an elementary school and who don't get in accepted to it, or those with their hearts set on a particular school, however, feel the sting of living in a zone.

Brian Eschbacher, executive director of planning and enrollment for DPS, noted that families living north of I-70 who listed only schools in the north were assigned schools in the north—likewise for families living in the south.

Swigert International School was the most-requested school, both in the zone and in the district as a whole.

Incoming Kindergarten Choice Outcome

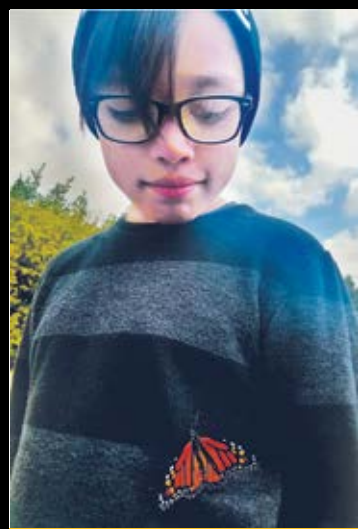
79% received their first choice, down from 87% last year.

91% received their 1st or 2nd choice.

98% received their 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice.

FOR KIDS

(continued)



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