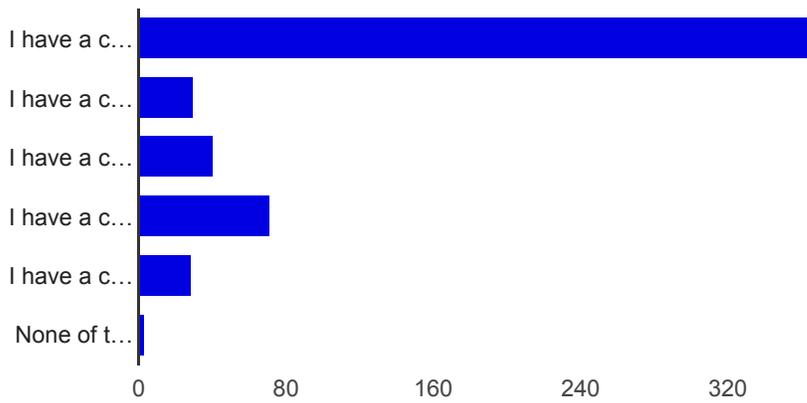
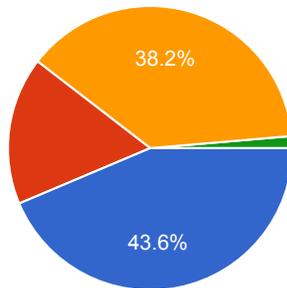


**Where do your children attend school? Please select all that apply.**



|  |            |       |
|--|------------|-------|
| I have a child/children in an OUSD District school.            | <b>368</b> | 83.3% |
| I have a child/children in an OUSD Charter school.             | <b>30</b>  | 6.8%  |
| I have a child/children attending a private school in Oakland. | <b>40</b>  | 9%    |
| I have a child/children who will be school aged in the future. | <b>72</b>  | 16.3% |
| I have a child/children who have graduated/left OUSD.          | <b>29</b>  | 6.6%  |
| None of the above.   | <b>3</b>   | 0.7%  |

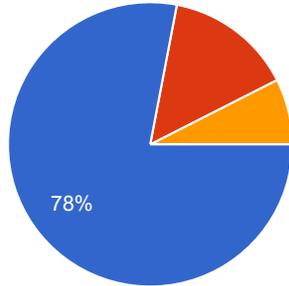
**Are you or were you satisfied with the school offerings within your neighborhood boundaries?**



|  |            |       |
|--|------------|-------|
| Yes, I would apply/I chose to go to my neighborhood school | <b>192</b> | 43.6% |
|--|------------|-------|

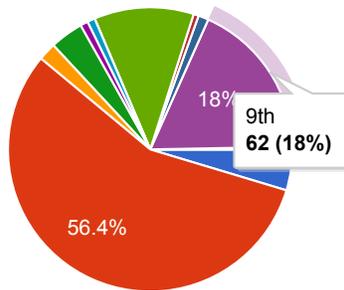
|  |            |       |
|--|------------|-------|
| Yes, but I had other choices ranked above my neighborhood school | <b>74</b>  | 16.8% |
| No, I would not/did not choose my neighborhood school            | <b>168</b> | 38.2% |
| I am not aware of what schools my residence is zoned for         | <b>6</b>   | 1.4%  |

**Have you ever participated in the OUSD Options Enrollment process?**



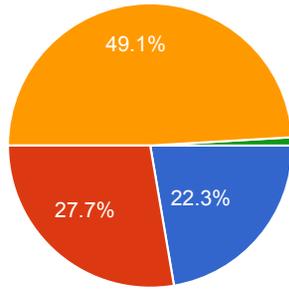
|               |            |       |
|---------------|------------|-------|
| Yes           | <b>344</b> | 78%   |
| No            | <b>64</b>  | 14.5% |
| I am not sure | <b>33</b>  | 7.5%  |

**If yes, for what grade?**



|        |            |       |
|--------|------------|-------|
| TK     | <b>16</b>  | 4.7%  |
| Kinder | <b>194</b> | 56.4% |
| 1st    | <b>7</b>   | 2%    |
| 2nd    | <b>13</b>  | 3.8%  |
| 3rd    | <b>3</b>   | 0.9%  |
| 4th    | <b>3</b>   | 0.9%  |
| 5th    | <b>0</b>   | 0%    |
| 6th    | <b>39</b>  | 11.3% |
| 7th    | <b>2</b>   | 0.6%  |
| 8th    | <b>4</b>   | 1.2%  |
| 9th    | <b>62</b>  | 18%   |
| 10th   | <b>0</b>   | 0%    |
| 11th   | <b>1</b>   | 0.3%  |
| 12th   | <b>0</b>   | 0%    |

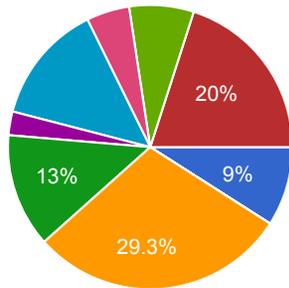
**In addition to applying to an OUSD school, what other school(s) have you applied to for your children?**



|                                     |            |       |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| I have only applied to OUSD schools | <b>211</b> | 49.1% |
| I am not sure                       | <b>4</b>   | 0.9%  |

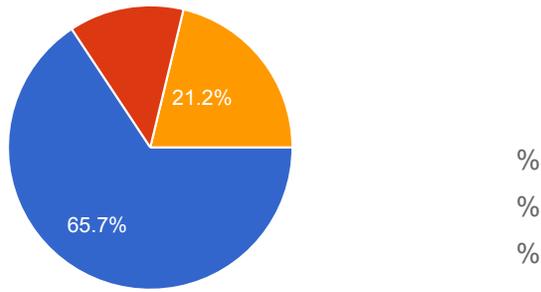
## Enrollment Survey - Your hopes and concerns

What is your greatest challenge with finding a school for your child?

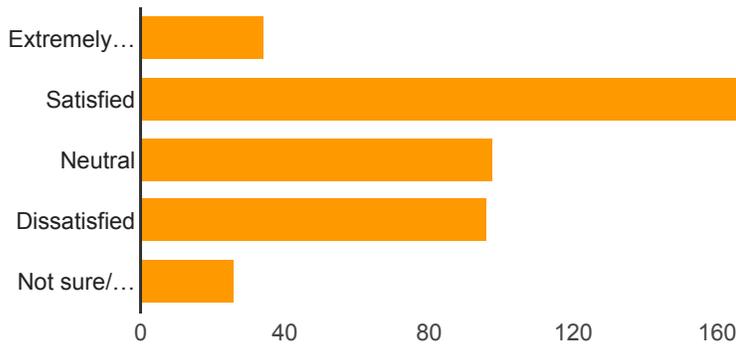


|   |            |       |
|---|------------|-------|
| Lack of information/access to information | <b>37</b>  | 9%    |
| Language barriers                         | <b>0</b>   | 0%    |
| Not enough quality options nearby         | <b>120</b> | 29.3% |
| Going through the Options process         | <b>53</b>  | 13%   |
| Application at OUSD/Charter too confusing | <b>11</b>  | 2.7%  |
| Waitlist at school(s) of choice           | <b>56</b>  | 13.7% |
| Time spent at OUSD enrollment office      | <b>20</b>  | 4.9%  |
| Lack of communication from OUSD           | <b>30</b>  | 7.3%  |
| Other                                     | <b>82</b>  | 20%   |

Did your child get into your most preferred school the most recent time you applied to more than one public school in Oakland?

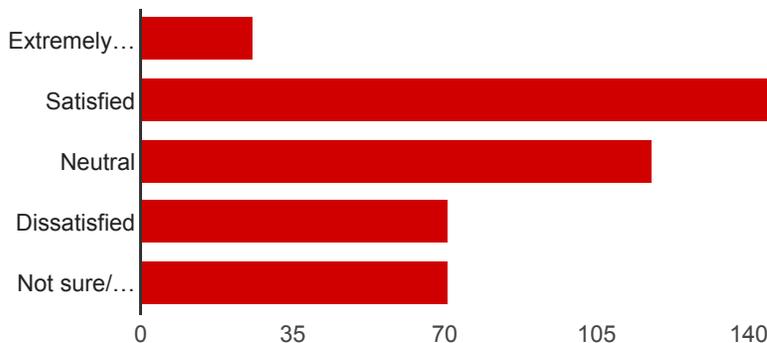


**Searching for information about schools in Oakland that are available to my child. [Here is a list of some of the activities families currently do to enroll their child in their public school of choice. Please rate your satisfaction of each of these activities:]**



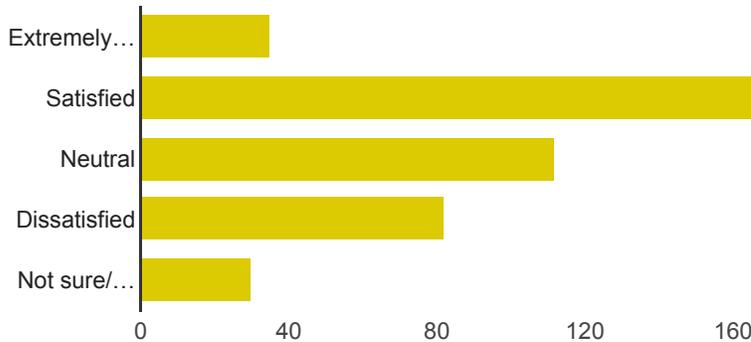
|                               |            |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Extremely Satisfied           | <b>34</b>  | 7.7%  |
| Satisfied                     | <b>188</b> | 42.5% |
| Neutral                       | <b>98</b>  | 22.2% |
| Dissatisfied                  | <b>96</b>  | 21.7% |
| Not sure/not applicable to me | <b>26</b>  | 5.9%  |

**Completing one or more applications to enroll at the school(s) I'm interested in. [Here is a list of some of the activities families currently do to enroll their child in their public school of choice. Please rate your satisfaction of each of these activities:]**



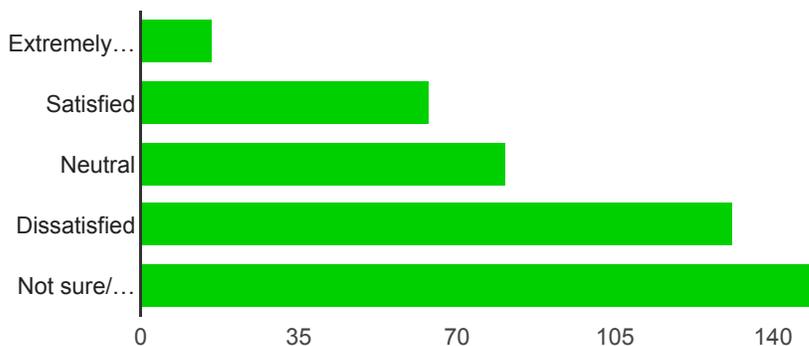
|                               |            |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Extremely Satisfied           | <b>26</b>  | 5.9%  |
| Satisfied                     | <b>156</b> | 35.3% |
| Neutral                       | <b>118</b> | 26.7% |
| Dissatisfied                  | <b>71</b>  | 16.1% |
| Not sure/not applicable to me | <b>71</b>  | 16.1% |

**Submitting my enrollment application(s) [Here is a list of some of the activities families currently do to enroll their child in their public school of choice. Please rate your satisfaction of each of these activities:]**



|                               |            |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Extremely Satisfied           | <b>35</b>  | 7.9%  |
| Satisfied                     | <b>183</b> | 41.4% |
| Neutral                       | <b>112</b> | 25.3% |
| Dissatisfied                  | <b>82</b>  | 18.6% |
| Not sure/not applicable to me | <b>30</b>  | 6.8%  |

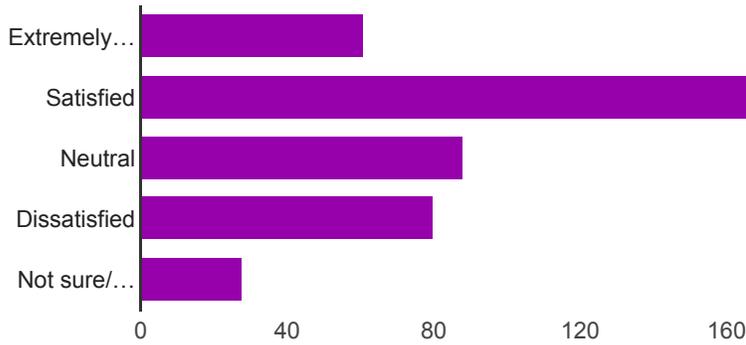
**Visiting the OUSD Student Assignment Center [Here is a list of some of the activities families currently do to enroll their child in their public school of choice. Please rate your satisfaction of each of these activities:]**



|                     |           |       |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| Extremely Satisfied | <b>16</b> | 3.6%  |
| Satisfied           | <b>64</b> | 14.5% |
| Neutral             | <b>81</b> | 18.3% |

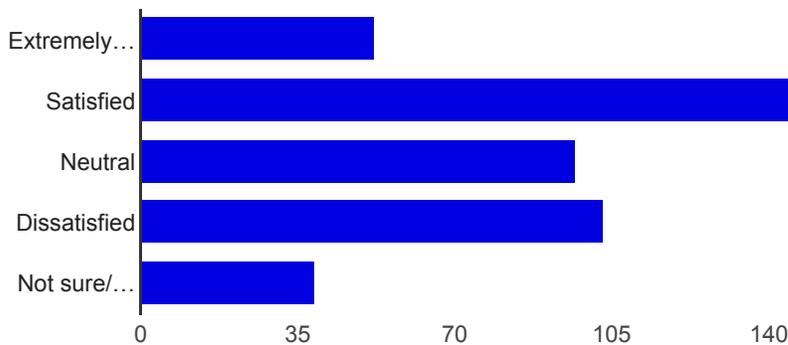
|                               |            |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Dissatisfied                  | <b>131</b> | 29.6% |
| Not sure/not applicable to me | <b>150</b> | 33.9% |

**Receiving notification from your student's school assignment. [Here is a list of some of the activities families currently do to enroll their child in their public school of choice. Please rate your satisfaction of each of these activities:]**



|                               |            |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Extremely Satisfied           | <b>61</b>  | 13.8% |
| Satisfied                     | <b>185</b> | 41.9% |
| Neutral                       | <b>88</b>  | 19.9% |
| Dissatisfied                  | <b>80</b>  | 18.1% |
| Not sure/not applicable to me | <b>28</b>  | 6.3%  |

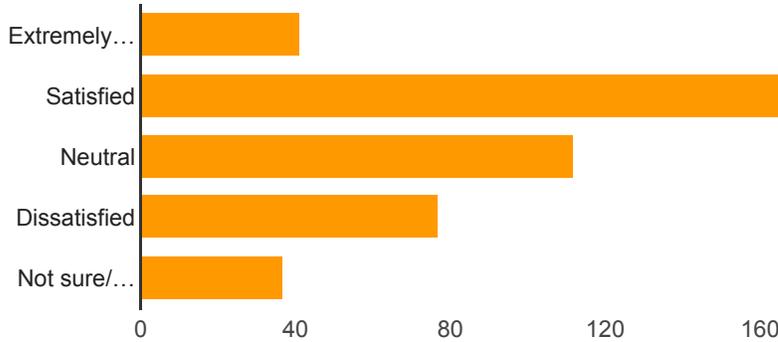
**Registering for the school year at my child's assigned school [Here is a list of some of the activities families currently do to enroll their child in their public school of choice. Please rate your satisfaction of each of these activities:]**



|                     |            |       |
|---------------------|------------|-------|
| Extremely Satisfied | <b>52</b>  | 11.8% |
| Satisfied           | <b>151</b> | 34.2% |
| Neutral             | <b>97</b>  | 21.9% |
| Dissatisfied        | <b>103</b> | 23.3% |

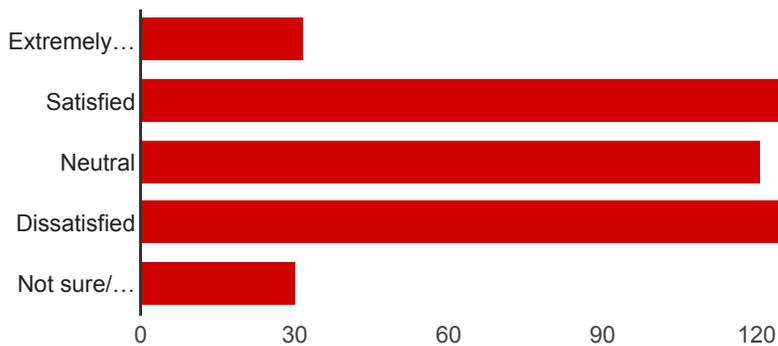
Not sure/not applicable to me **39** 8.8%

**Finding school performance information [Here is a list of some of the activities families currently do to enroll their child in their public school of choice. Please rate your satisfaction of each of these activities:]**



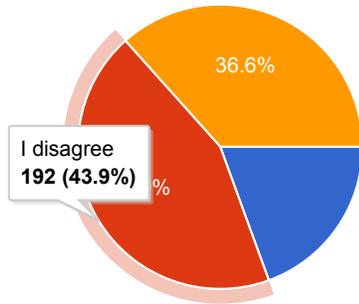
|                               |            |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Extremely Satisfied           | <b>41</b>  | 9.3%  |
| Satisfied                     | <b>175</b> | 39.6% |
| Neutral                       | <b>112</b> | 25.3% |
| Dissatisfied                  | <b>77</b>  | 17.4% |
| Not sure/not applicable to me | <b>37</b>  | 8.4%  |

**Finding information about programs and resources available at a school [Here is a list of some of the activities families currently do to enroll their child in their public school of choice. Please rate your satisfaction of each of these activities:]**



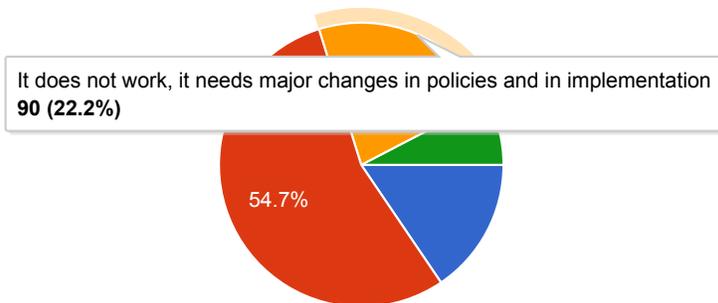
|                               |            |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Extremely Satisfied           | <b>32</b>  | 7.2%  |
| Satisfied                     | <b>132</b> | 29.9% |
| Neutral                       | <b>121</b> | 27.4% |
| Dissatisfied                  | <b>127</b> | 28.7% |
| Not sure/not applicable to me | <b>30</b>  | 6.8%  |

**Rate your level of agreement with the following statement: The way students get assigned to schools in Oakland is transparent and fair to kids.**



|               |            |       |
|---------------|------------|-------|
| I agree       | <b>85</b>  | 19.5% |
| I disagree    | <b>192</b> | 43.9% |
| I am not sure | <b>160</b> | 36.6% |

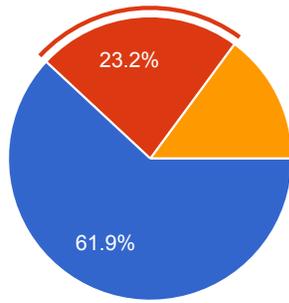
**What is your overall impression of the Options Process?**



|  |            |       |
|--|------------|-------|
| I think it's the best way for OUSD to manage enrollment                    | <b>63</b>  | 15.5% |
| It works, but it needs an update   | <b>222</b> | 54.7% |
| It does not work, it needs major changes in policies and in implementation | <b>90</b>  | 22.2% |
| It should be completely replaced   | <b>31</b>  | 7.6%  |

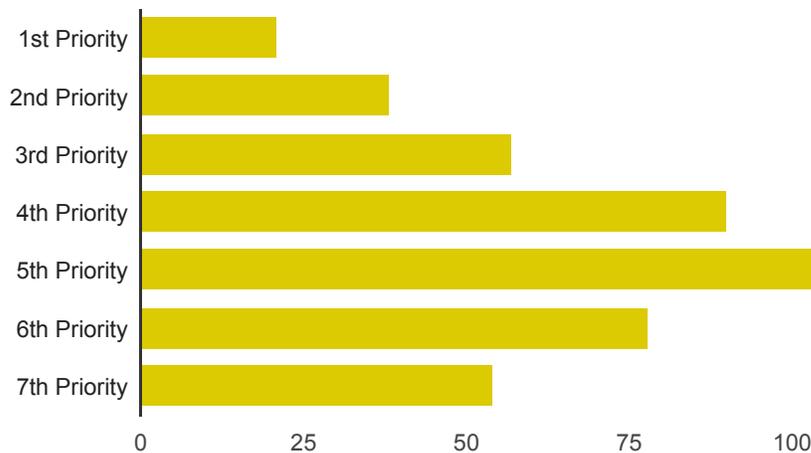
## **Enrollment Priorities - Who Should Get Into Which Schools?**

**Currently, students who apply to an OUSD school are prioritized for enrollment in the following ways: 1. Applicants who have a sibling at the school; 2. Applicants who live in the neighborhood; 3. Lottery. How do you feel about this priority structure?**



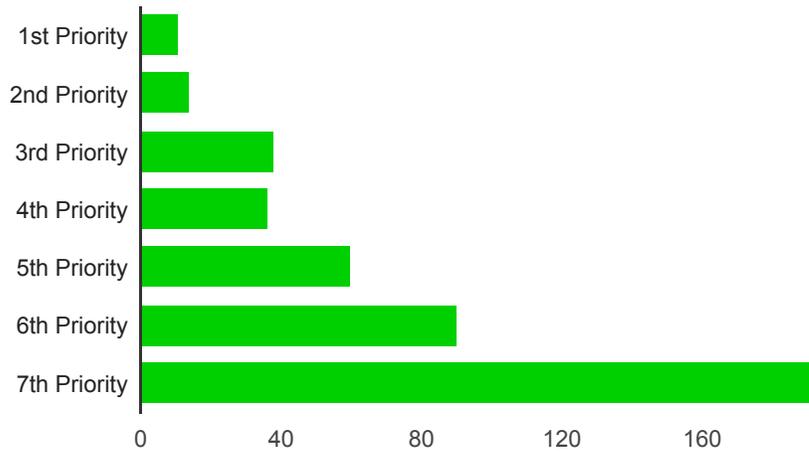
This does not seem right to me    **101**    23.2%  
 I am not sure    **65**    14.9%

**1. Program Feeder (An elementary or middle school student who participates in a specific academic program and desire to continue in a similar program as they move up?) [Sometimes there is not enough space in a particular school, grade, or program to accommodate all the students who would like to enroll. In your opinion, how should OUSD prioritize students who all want to attend a school? Please rank each item.]**



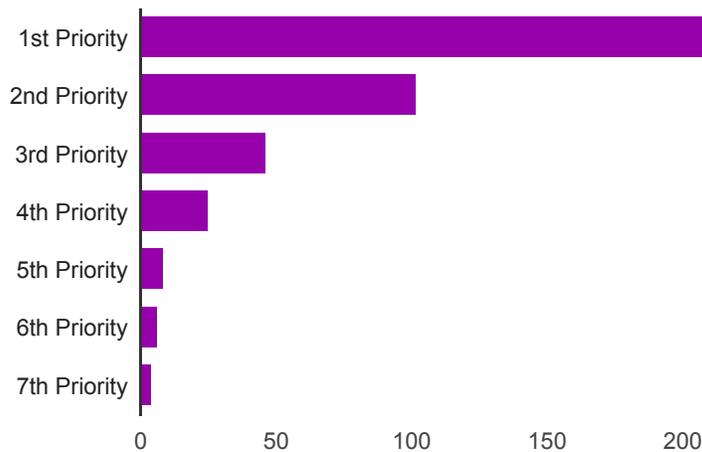
1st Priority    **21**    4.8%  
 2nd Priority    **38**    8.6%  
 3rd Priority    **57**    12.9%  
 4th Priority    **90**    20.4%  
 5th Priority    **104**    23.5%  
 6th Priority    **78**    17.6%  
 7th Priority    **54**    12.2%

**2. Open Lottery (Students who have no other enrollment priority at a school) [Sometimes there is not enough space in a particular school, grade, or program to accommodate all the students who would like to enroll. In your opinion, how should OUSD prioritize students who all want to attend a school? Please rank each item.]**



|              |            |       |
|--------------|------------|-------|
| 1st Priority | <b>11</b>  | 2.5%  |
| 2nd Priority | <b>14</b>  | 3.2%  |
| 3rd Priority | <b>38</b>  | 8.6%  |
| 4th Priority | <b>36</b>  | 8.1%  |
| 5th Priority | <b>60</b>  | 13.6% |
| 6th Priority | <b>90</b>  | 20.4% |
| 7th Priority | <b>193</b> | 43.7% |

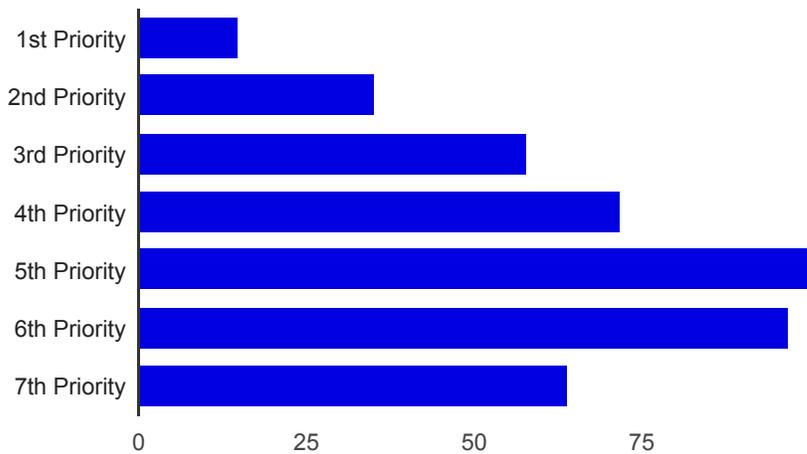
**3. Sibling (A student who has a sibling currently attending will also be attending that school next year) [Sometimes there is not enough space in a particular school, grade, or program to accommodate all the students who would like to enroll. In your opinion, how should OUSD prioritize students who all want to attend a school? Please rank each item.]**



|              |            |       |
|--------------|------------|-------|
| 1st Priority | <b>250</b> | 56.6% |
| 2nd Priority | <b>102</b> | 23.1% |
| 3rd Priority | <b>46</b>  | 10.4% |

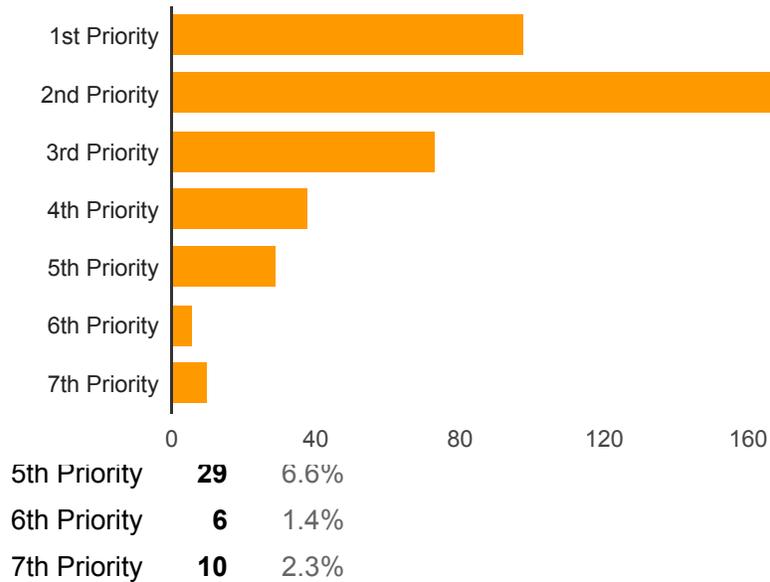
|              |           |      |
|--------------|-----------|------|
| 4th Priority | <b>25</b> | 5.7% |
| 5th Priority | <b>9</b>  | 2%   |
| 6th Priority | <b>6</b>  | 1.4% |
| 7th Priority | <b>4</b>  | 0.9% |

**4. Integration (A student who meets a Board-approved criteria that would add to a school's diversity [Sometimes there is not enough space in a particular school, grade, or program to accommodate all the students who would like to enroll. In your opinion, how should OUSD prioritize students who all want to attend a school? Please rank each item.]**

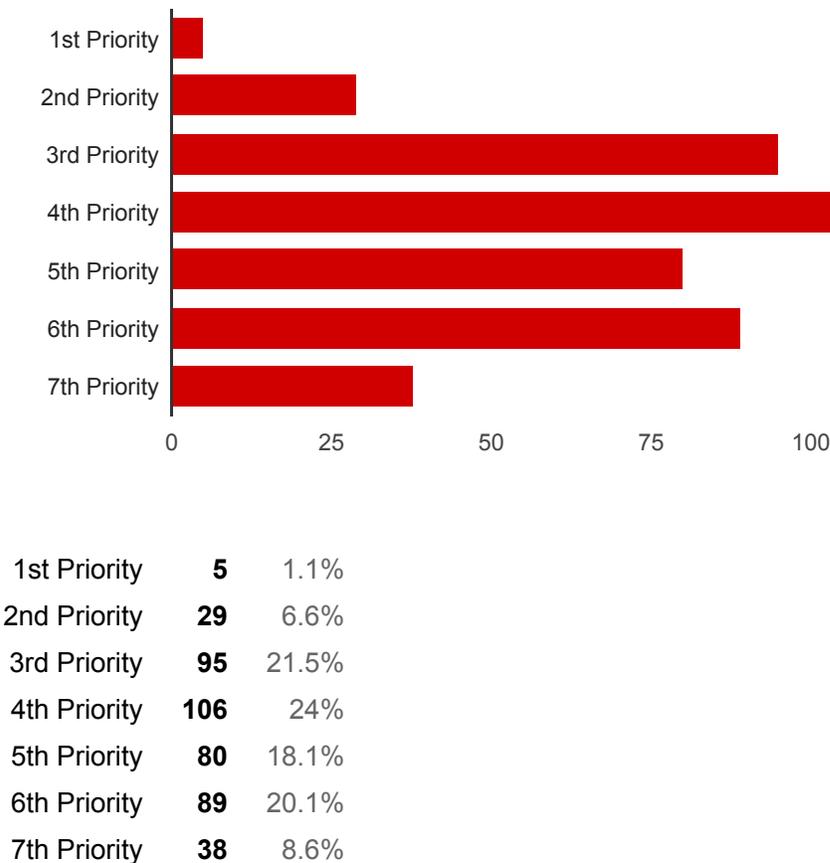


|              |            |       |
|--------------|------------|-------|
| 1st Priority | <b>15</b>  | 3.4%  |
| 2nd Priority | <b>35</b>  | 7.9%  |
| 3rd Priority | <b>58</b>  | 13.1% |
| 4th Priority | <b>72</b>  | 16.3% |
| 5th Priority | <b>101</b> | 22.9% |
| 6th Priority | <b>97</b>  | 21.9% |
| 7th Priority | <b>64</b>  | 14.5% |

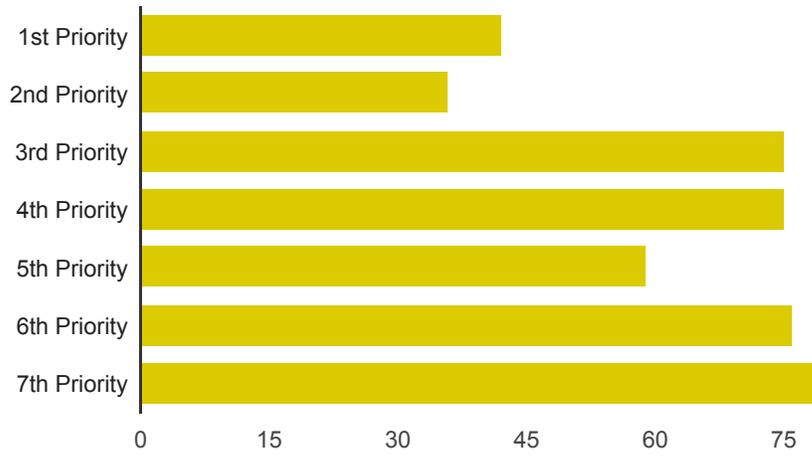
**5. Neighborhood (A student who lives in the school's neighborhood boundary) [Sometimes there is not enough space in a particular school, grade, or program to accommodate all the students who would like to enroll. In your opinion, how should OUSD prioritize students who all want to attend a school? Please rank each item.]**



**6. School Feeder (An elementary or middle school student who attends a school with a feeder relationship with a nearby school and desires to attend that school) [Sometimes there is not enough space in a particular school, grade, or program to accommodate all the students who would like to enroll. In your opinion, how should OUSD prioritize students who all want to attend a school? Please rank each item.]**

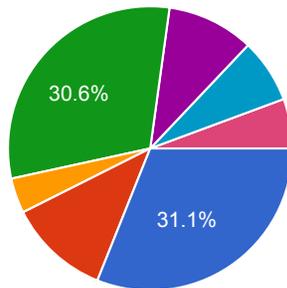


**7. Priority for OUSD students (Gives priority registration to students in OUSD schools over other students) [Sometimes there is not enough space in a particular school, grade, or program to accommodate all the students who would like to enroll. In your opinion, how should OUSD prioritize students who all want to attend a school? Please rank each item.]**



|              |           |       |
|--------------|-----------|-------|
| 1st Priority | <b>42</b> | 9.5%  |
| 2nd Priority | <b>36</b> | 8.1%  |
| 3rd Priority | <b>75</b> | 17%   |
| 4th Priority | <b>75</b> | 17%   |
| 5th Priority | <b>59</b> | 13.3% |
| 6th Priority | <b>76</b> | 17.2% |
| 7th Priority | <b>79</b> | 17.9% |

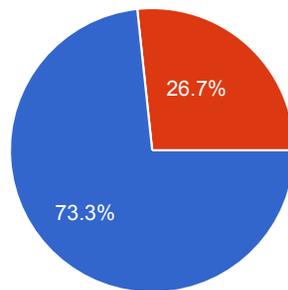
**In which Board of Education District do you live?**



|                                       |            |       |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| District 1 - Dir. Jody London         | <b>132</b> | 31.1% |
| District 2 - Dir. Aimee Eng           | <b>49</b>  | 11.5% |
| District 3 - Dir. Jumoke Hinton-Hodge | <b>17</b>  | 4%    |
| District 4 - Dir. Nina Senn           | <b>130</b> | 30.6% |
| District 5 - Dir. Rosie Torres        | <b>42</b>  | 9.9%  |
| District 6 - Dir. Shanthi Gonzales    | <b>31</b>  | 7.3%  |

District 7 - Dir. James Harris **24** 5.6%

**Would you prefer to only have to complete one application and enrollment process for all public schools in Oakland (District and Charter)?**



|     |            |       |
|-----|------------|-------|
| Yes | <b>316</b> | 73.3% |
| No  | <b>115</b> | 26.7% |

to somehow make it easy for households to access options and information, while not making it more difficult for public schools to attract and enroll students. For instance, EBIA is rapidly growing with a diverse waiting list in the hundreds. There was obviously an opportunity missed at Montera or Crocker or Glenview where parents wanted a STEAM, Project-based middle school that OUSD just did not move quick enough on, for whatever reason. But now, those students and families and parents that essential self-selected themselves have a concentrated amount of resources at EBIA, such as a first class volunteer fundraising team, families that can afford to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars, and hundreds of hours of volunteer time. Imagine if these resources were dispersed out to Roosevelt, Frick, Westlake, etc. All boats would be lifted rather than an inequitable situation where even the parents who send their kids to EBIA are conflicted and guilt-ridden because they are socially conscious people yet send their child(ren) to a well to do charter, almost private school. Perhaps they are playing by all of the same rules and just succeeding with effort and intelligence. But my gut tells me different. I don't have the time to research it all but common enrollment does not feel right. I look forward to hearing more and seeing the push-back. If there are other motives such as pushing forward some education agenda or philosophy, that would be a big turn off.

The lack of information - if I hadn't gone on to the OUSD website to figure out how the options process worked, I wouldn't have known it existed and then beyond the letter I got with my daughter's placement, I didn't hear from her assigned school. I had to go onto their website to figure out what I needed to know about the start of the year. It all worked out fine, but it wasn't ideal. Generally, once I figured out the process and did my own research, it went smoothly, but I'm a fully literate and technologically savvy parent with easy Internet access. I wonder about what this process is like for a parent without easy access to Internet or other barriers. It was stressful for me, so imagine it could be even more stressful for parents with a different context.

I think OUSD is going to have to seriously consider verifying addresses of families who's children are enrolled in OUSD after school assignment. I really hate to say this but our son didn't initially get into our neighborhood school and we know families that moved to Berkeley who keep their kids in our school taking spots that other kids who live in the neighborhood don't get. This is a really tough issue but I believe that, as OUSD schools continue to improve (thank you!!) it's going to be more competitive and neighborhood kids should get priority.

Not enough good schools to go around

The greatest advantage would be that it would save time.

Different demand and needs for schools. Going to a charter art school like OSA is a completely different experience compared to Oakland Tech

Well I did have not problems with enrolling my daughter in her middle school - Edna Brewer. But when it came to my son, we did not get our choice at all which was Oakland Tec. Even when I appealed I did not get my first and choice. So reluctantly I had to move

my son out of OUSD for high school and into a Private College Preparatory High School. So e can received the level of education he deserves.

It wasn't the form, that was easy enough. It is rumored if you want a school for your child just write that school in all options and you will get in. It did not feel like it was as random as what is claimed.

Less paperwork for parents to wade through.

Positive: Easy to have 1 form and would have the same questions for all charter schools.

Challenge: if interested in a charter school, it is helpful to know who they are targeting (first generation college bound, English as second language, etc.). 1 form would make it harder to determine if school philosphy and community is a good fit for my student.

The waiting time to receive a response from the options process was too long.

Enrollment in regular public schools should be encouraged. Charter schools should be de-emphasized

positives are standarization, clarity, familiarity. Need to put online.

Specialized schools, e.g., OSA, have specialized requirements. While there could be a "common app" it must be supplemented for specialty schools.

Charter schools are fundamentally different and some parents don't understand they aren't inclusive to all students and wouldn't support them otherwise.

Charters care about different things. It could be tough to integrate all their applications. But having one enrollment process would be great.

improves accessibility to charters which is a mixed bag of pluses and minuses. Increased access helps people who are less able to handle applications which is good (often those with poor school choices anyway), but it also lowers the bar for people who don't need to access charters.

The interface is subpar, you should be able to easily access an online application.

Additionally, when I attempted to call the enrollment office I was transferred from line to line and was unable to speak to anyone.

The positive is not having to complete similar forms for the same purpose, especially when there"s more than one child being registered.

Must ensure that the process is equally fair to charters and districts. Ideally 50/50 representation in the administration of the process so charters will buy in and break down the distinctions between charters and districts. Overall the key is we simply need more high quality school options, particularly at the middle and high school level so that more parents choose public schools (district & charter) and stay in Oakland.

Not sure.

?

I feel like once you apply and don't get in, if you appeal, there is no real organized system to make sure you remain on the waitlist. Many people would like to stay on the waitlist even late into the summer or the school year.

I think one application could potentially give an advantage to charters, since many of them have additional funds to brand/advertise their schools, while their OUSD counterparts do not. I would not be in favor of one form for all schools.

Students that are already students should not have to re-register for school every school year. The schools know at the end of the year how many spaces they have for each grade level. At this point Student Assignment and each school should be working together.

Less paperwork suggests less errors, which is good, but also one single point of failure. There has to be some acknowledgement when filing paperwork so families know their paperwork has been received and can't then be lost

Time consumed

This survey does not address the socioeconomic segregation in OUSD which leads to some schools (Oakland Tech and Oakland School of the Arts) receiving more middle class students compared to the other comprehensive high schools. Why do Oakland High and Skyline have so few white youth? Why are most charters self-segregating such as Unity and "American Indian" with mainly Latino and Asian students? Why are the high schools pretending that all students are scholars when many bright youngsters want access to a good paying job in the trades or public sector due to their family situation? Finally, teacher turnover in both public and charters is the real reason that so many secondary schools are struggling in Oakland. Combine that with social promotion from elementary to middle and high school and you have frustrated students performing well below grade level and teachers retiring early or quitting OUSD for the suburbs where pay and respect are superior. There should be an enrollment program that favors charters rejoining OUSD with a balance of below basic, basic, and advanced students in every school. Schools with too many below basic students are avoided by many parents because discipline is problematic and achievement suspect.

No idea

I feel that one application will lead to more families choosing charter schools, and I don't feel that they should be included in the same application process because they do not follow the same rules for families.

I think the real issue is that the district schools in general and middle and high in particular need to be improved so that families feel like they can feel good about sending their students to their neighborhood schools. It is a real issue when there are only handful of secondary schools in a city the size of Oakland that people actually want to send their students to. And Oakland Tech seems to be the only high school anyone wants to send their students to. Until this changes people are not going to be happy with the process.

None - this seems like the most efficient process. Seems too confusing to do it otherwise. I am not a fan of Charter Schools in general, but if OUSD allows them, they should be part of the same application process.

Convenience of one application. One application clarifies which school an applicant

prefers. If two applications, I may really want to go to Charter School X, but on the public school application it looks like my first choice is Public School Y.

The process works fairly well, except for the fact that Oakland students should be prioritized over students who live out of the district. I am not in favor of a process where OUSD handles applications for charter schools. In fact, I strongly oppose it.

Charter school should deal with their own enrollment--especially since they are taking away resources from other schools....

The thing that is frustrating about charter school to me is that they can say they're full--their charters say how many students they can take and they won't overfill past that number. But at district schools student assignment just keeps on squeezing kids in regardless of their grade level so some classes end up having too many students. It doesn't seem fair.

The neighborhood priority would be hard to maintain.

The application is a minor issue. The fact that parents are required to enroll their children in a school near their home address or participate in a process that rarely results in children being enrolled in schools which parents feel meet the educational needs or safety requirements parents establish to keep their children safe. The application is just another form that needs to be revised but the realities behind the application need dramatic adjustments to attain equity. I am a graduate of OUSD as are my parents and my children BUT the inequities we have faced, as it relates to enrollment policies, has resulted in my focusing on this very issue as my current doctoral dissertation topic. I am happy the district is ready to make changes but this is much deeper than an application simplification

The charter process should be kept completely separate from the district process.

Less work, and we should be able to fill it out on line or at the school instead of having to go to that place by the lake.

no lost documents. Compare and contrast on one application.

I think it is a positive thing to be able to have the options process. We went through the process and did get a spot at our first choice school. We know other families who did not get their choice and wonder why we got our first choice and they did not. I had a positive experience with the process but also did my due diligence. I understand some may have a difficult time navigating the process but I found it easier than I expected.

Everything then will be in one system. District can then better keep track with students and programs that are needed. It also saved parents' time and energy. Less confusion! one application would streamline the process for families however ousd staff would need to separate family preferences and proceed with the assignment process as 2 separate entities.

fairness - everyone going through single process cost savings transparency of process & results

It is a racist, classist shamble of a system currently that serves only families who can afford to live in wealthy PTA services districts. For shame on us all.

Easier to submit

I agree that there should be one application.

In the computer age doesn't seem like we should need to fill out for after form repeating our name, address, emergency contacts etc. We do this year after year for the same kids who haven't had any changes. I realize we should be able to make changes when needed but it should be a pre filled form that we can change year to year. Waste of paper and time for everyone....

One application should reflect the schools of choice in order of preference instead of multiple applications at several different locations. The advantage is to let the applicant see ALL schools at once. Which will help them select the one that best fits the need for that family.

Will mean more applications for schools where parents don't really want to attend or understand the programs. I said no, but I'm not sure either way ...

Admin will need to familiarize themselves with Microsoft Access. Generally easier for the parents tho.

I vehemently disagree with charter schools. The fact that they keep getting approved, particularly ones like EBIA, does a disservice to the public schools. I have brought this up at a school board meeting and have been told that it can't be helped. I disagree--the school board should be able to make change.

There will be less confusion with enrollment deadlines for charter school. As of right now, different charter school have different deadline for application.

I'm sure it's hard for charters to have the same system as district but having different dates/info needed is not my problem.

All OUSD forms are so outdated as to be ridiculous -- whether the Options forms, or Emergency Forms, or registering on site at Oakland Tech after admission. If OUSD had to just make one form, maybe they would actually get at least one form right and up to date. Also the Options office is a mess -- the system in place is antiquated, the women who work in the office are grumpy and unhelpful -- it lives up to the stereotype of poor governance, oversight, and management. It gives the public sector a bad name -- which is awful -- since public education needs to be defended now more than ever.

I think having one application for all Oakland public schools could potentially feed more students to charters. I think the priority of the district should be on strengthening district public schools.

I am unsure how I feel about Charter Schools and their value.

Positive: When families "opt" in to district schools as a backup in case they do not get into the charter school of their choice, it creates chaos in district school enrollment. I think an single application and enrollment process would streamline that and cause families to

have to make true choices rather than relying on district schools as the fallback option.

We need LESS charter schools! They clutter the application process and divert funds from neighborhood schools.

positive - less paperwork

My son went to a private elementary & middle school, then applied only to Tech and got in, so my comments are based on limited and old information. I was struck when looking at elementary schools how much easier it was to research and apply to the private schools -- they almost all used the same process with the same time line which was explained to the parents. For OUSD, it was not easy to get an overview of the process (timelines, how to research a school, etc.) and it did not feel like the individual schools were very cohesive in how they presented themselves, how a parent was to find out more about it, etc. So anything that makes the process more streamlined would likely be an improvement.

Tighter integration with the charter schools can undermine the hard work we've done to support our students and schools. Parents would be led to believe that charter schools in the OUSD application would be held to the same standards and have the same protections and oversight as the public schools.

I am very disappointed that our superintendent got to shop around and hand-pick a school for his children, coincidentally the only school that has a decent middle school. Yes- transparency is an issue indeed. Also, let's get some school choices in the middle and high school grades that actually challenge high-achieving learners that want to learn (aside from Tech, which is truly like winning the lottery for many). We could learn a lot from Berkeley High's IB and Academic Choice programs, as just one example.

It would encourage families to move out of enrollment in our public schools. However, I would be for it if it would improve the ability to predict what students are going to show up when school begins. You would know when they are opting for a charter school so that the public schools can plan accordingly.

simplicity!

Would be a huge positive if it were managed correctly. Do not have confidence in the current Student Assignment office staff being able to manage this.

I can see how having one system for both district and charter can provide more awareness on overall enrollment, where currently there is none. I do not agree that charter schools get public funding. Charter schools should be treated like private schools.

N/A

I don't know what the current application process is like for charter schools so I can't comment on this question.

Charter schools serve to some degree a selective population that has the resources to navigate the application process. A single application would level the playing field between district and charter-managed schools if charters had less control over who was assigned to them. E.g., even out the special ed populations.

It limits my choices. I can apply to 6 public schools. I can freely apply to as many charters schools as I would like. If I apply to both on one form, it greatly lessens the chance of getting into one of my top 3 public schools, and should I not get accepted to a charter either, I will be pushed further down the line in my top choices if they are given the same space on the app. They are separate schools and I do not mind applying to them as such. The issue that seems to take place in other cities like New York City with common enrollment is that schools seem to get a lot more applications from families who ultimately don't enroll, making it challenging to plan staffing, budget, etc. This is especially true for schools like charter schools that do their own hiring and finances, although it is probably the case for all public schools to a certain extent.

Positives: --ONE pathway for parents to manage enrollment. --One funnel for all enrollment requests to be submitted to OUSD. --One enrollment timeline for parents to manage to that is consistent throughout the district.

I like the idea of being able to be entered in a charter school's lottery in addition too being wait-listed at my preferred district school

Simplifies process and makes all things equal. I was furious that a charter school (Urban Montessori) would not allow my just-turned-6-year-old son apply for K there. No other OUSD school had an age maximum like UM does. It is unfair.

Positives: simple, clear, more equitable, less demanding of parents Challenges: puts charters on equal footing with OUSD schools with the potential to further undermine district schools

Where is the application and process information. One stop shopping with direct contact.

I do not think the district should manage charter applications. The district has enough to worry about with trying to manage the current applications for kindergarten in it's more popular schools and the 9th graders at Oakland Tech!

I don't know, I'm not privy to how it all operates behind the scene. I'm guessing more work for the OUSD staff...???

Must have clear MOU with charter schools prior to including them in this planning/proposal process. Positive: District will be able to ensure that charters are not "picking" students they want; process is transparent. Will they begin offering special education services? Challenges: School that currently share a site with charter schools may be even more adversely affected in terms of enrollment.

Pros-It would be easier for many families; same deadlines and less time spent completing applications. Cons-We found the lottery system at charters to be transparent with families invited to observe the lottery in process, but did not find the same situation to occur with OUSD. I would be concerned that OUSD would not be able to provide the same sense of fairness with it's placements.

Uniform process and standards, decrease in time spent for parents applying

Positives: single process.

Well, it could help families like mine who have no interest in charters. I think currently, people are hedging their bets and applying to both.

The main thing we need is greater transparency about who gets in. There should be a public lottery.

I can see that charter school at separate because they have specific characteristics that may need to be addressed in the application.

We have one application for all Oakland public schools. My kids are at charters but I am not under the delusion that they are public schools. They are not. They are publicly funded in the same way that the Raiders stadium was publicly funded but that doesn't make the stadium a public stadium. You'd have to go to Wisconsin to see a public stadium. I believe what you meant to ask absent the ideological inaccuracies if what would be the positives and challenges to a common application that included OUSD public schools and charter schools. The challenges would exist only if local government pretended a commitment to actually fix Oakland public schools at levels higher than elementary. It is unclear to me if that is a goal of the board majority or the administration. Neighborhood schools matter because of the sense of place and ability to build solid long term friendships and community involvement

I don't think Oakland should move away from neighborhood schools. That does not seem fair at this point after people have bought homes with an eye towards the schools in that neighborhood. For this reason, I have always thought the 'options' marketing is misleading; families don't really have much of a choice so why oversell what you can't deliver? Most people are going to go to schools in their neighborhoods so obviously efforts and monies should be spent to ensure that all neighborhoods have a good school. In terms of the Charter schools, these are not neighborhood schools. There should be one application for all the charter schools and it should be easy for families to check the ones they want to apply for (including a 'check all' button). The rules for the weights for the lottery for each school should be clearly stated (there should be greater transparency about this so people know what children are favored with taxpayer monies). I feel like a lot of the Charter schools are quasi-private schools especially at their inception, where only insiders know about them, and many people are designated 'founders' often with very little required of them except to know the right people. This obviously benefits the monied and privileged. So do neighborhood schools obviously but that's not going to change. The charters and all the new pet project charters are an easier place to level the playing field and allow access to all based on a single form to apply and a simple and easy and fair enrollment process called a lottery (it is fine if the lotteries have weights but these should be stated clearly as part of the application process).

The current enrollment policies aren't working for dual immersion language schools, like Melrose Leadership Academy. We need your office's help to reserve at least 50% of our enrollment slots for mono-lingual Spanish-speaking families.

Positive: easy for parents Challenges: private schools in general may not be as general

and may need to be carefully matched to the student (i.e., some students will thrive in a given charter school and others will not be a good match for the same school; it may be hard to ascertain this from a universal application)

Parents are truly informed about district and charter options. If parents choose to go charter, they should not be prioritized over parents who've been wait listed for months to enroll into a school of choice and vice versa. The district would have better insight on actual enrollment numbers versus projected enrollment numbers. This could also help the district so there is less competition to advertise to all students in the district including charters schools. I found charter school brochures left on my car wind shield during the first 2 weeks of school when dropping of my child to school. This shouldn't be the case!

Positives: much more convenient for parents to complete one application and decide where to apply Challenges: government tech is hard to get right (I know because I work in government tech).

Positives: One district, one application, better record handling, and hopefully retention of records from year to year so all info need not be resubmitted each year. Challenge may be more centralized administration and thus less local school specific / focused process.

Easy to track, simpler

Streamlines the process. Informs parents about ALL their options and allows them to make the best decision based on their child's needs/wants.

Negative/challenge - more people would apply to charter schools, thus further eroding OUSD public schools. There are no positives in my mind in increasing charter school enrollment.

It sounds really easy!

no comment

Much of the information is repetitive so becomes tedious.

I am an OUSD employee and I commute in from Richmond because housing is too expensive in Oakland. My son has had an inter-district transfer since he was in kinder and he is currently in 9th grade. I did not get the school of choice and I was told I do not receive ANY priority. In order to retain teachers, I think valuing their service by prioritizing their children may help. I know that it was an EXTREMELY stressful process and my son did not know which high school he was going to until about a week before school started. I think streamlining the process by having one application with more priorities will help. applications getting lost unless it is inputted into the computer right away.

It was distressing having multiple application processes. I wasn't sure if I needed to keep telling OUSD my child was going to an assigned school, when I really hoped he would get into a charter school. This helps me coordinate the process.

Each charter seems to have it's own criteria (thus allowing for creaming...) and wouldn't want to cede control over that and actually be a public serving school.

The positive is that it is easy for parents, who can be confused about their options and all

of the schools available. I can imagine it might be a challenge for the individual schools, who may have different information they want on the application. It could also create a higher volume of applications for some schools which didn't see many applications previously because they weren't listed on the OUSD list of options.

Oakland is extraordinarily diverse and there is not equity among schools. While I benefit from living in an affluent district, and being able to choose a better school for my child, I'm aware that children across Oakland do not have equal access to better schools. the challenge is how to level the playing field so that all Oakland students have equal opportunity to attend the best schools.

Charter schools can "cherry pick" students and encourage students who are "not a match" to leave the school. Some charter schools like the School for the Arts have a large number of students out of district and very low numbers of English Language Learners/ and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. These inequitable practices should not be supported by a single application process.

I would not want to lose my spot in my neighborhood school by applying for a charter school.

Saves time.

Centralized databases of information limit effort and mistakes on both sides

Ease of use, comprehensive form so applicants can have transparency as to their options. Neg: creating a one size fits all form that informs and addresses applicants' needs.

The process works better for well-resources families who always seem to navigate the system better. Priority should be given to families in zones with bad schools. Of course I'm satisfied with the program -- I'm a well-resourced parent and it works well for me!

It gives an opportunity to the children in the flats where there are few or no good public school options. This is specifically true for high school options-there really is only one high school option in Oakland.

Drawbacks: Confusion for parents - too many options Parents not knowing difference between charters and district. Positives: Increase knowledge of charter schools as options for kids consolidate process - so one student isn't enrolled in two schools holding a spot for someone who would like to be in one of those schools.

I believe we need to stop charter schools and focus on improving our public schools.

The system was difficult to navigate through. My students ID number was not obvious infirmation. When on line searching for public schools, it is not obvious which are chartered. OUSD website is scattered. I'm sure it's more difficult for those who: do not speak English as a first language, aren't familiar with navigating through web stew, are new to Oakland's school district.

Positives - one-stop shopping, one answer from the process Negatives - I support OUSD schools and would be concerned if a "one-application" system was seen as a promotion of charter schools at the expense of public schools...

There are so many different charter schools with different priorities and focuses, I don't see how this could work. Also, it seems like it would lead to a lot of students switching around midyear because they would apply for many schools and then weigh their options as schools became available. It's not good for the classroom community of students who are already in the school to have kids leave for greener pastures. I experienced this as students left my children's elementary charter school if they got admitted elsewhere. Some kids always had one leg out the door.

Charter schools should be completely on their own. If they take the per child funds away from OUSD, they should have to deal with all the administrative elements for those students also. OUSD should NOT have to handle any aspect of charter schools. One application for all OUSD public schools (excluding charter) is appropriate.

Pro: would promote equity by making process less complicated, more accessible to those with fewer resources to navigate system. Increased awareness of options based on single deadline. Con: might exacerbate feeling of scarcity, dissatisfaction for lottery "losers," might make less popular schools even worse/more unstable.

No comment

I don't see why there would be a problem with one application.

I don't know.

Positive: Less paperwork, and knowing ahead of time where your child will attend school for the following years

As a parent just beginning the process for a kindergartner, a single application makes the process easier on the parents. Any challenges will fall on OUSD to review and process the applications, coordinating among the schools, etc.

The enrollment process should only include District Public schools and should not include any charter schools. Charter schools are not public schools in approach and should not be encouraged by the administration. Parents may be misled into believing that a charter school is the same as a district school, which it is not. The proliferation of charter schools is detrimental to the health of the public school system. This District should be focusing its resources on how to make the public schools for which they are responsible great choices, not making it easier for charter schools to divert money from our public school system.

Families who do not have time or resources to search and learn about all schools will have all choices apparent to them in one place.

One positive outcome is that it would streamline and consolidate the annual registration process for families, such as mine, that have more than one child attending OUSD schools. With the online registration option that failed to work over the summer for our OUSD families, I certainly anticipate challenges in transitioning to yet another updated process.

Longer wait list for students that want a charter experience. If everyone in the district can apply with the click of a button then there will be an influx of applicants that don't really

prioritize whatever the charter specializes in but apply anyway because there isn't anything extra that they have to do.

Charters are very specific and often serve a particular crowd.

It would make life a lot easier for those seeking to cast a wide net, similar to the Common App for college applications. The difficulty will come if OUSD starts to create more magnet-type schools (maybe also true with high school academies) where a particular skill or attribute may be an important consideration, such as with an arts focus. Having a single application that can be flexible enough to handle those specific needs of schools to properly weigh the right criteria would be daunting.

Charter schools pick and choose students they want and do not follow district policies. They also reject special education students

The positive aspect of having one application is that the parent or guardian of the student is only filling out the information once, and not having to do multiple applications. A challenge might be that it could get confusing as to what School they are signing up for.

As far as I understand, Charter Schools are run quite different from District schools, therefore, one application may not be adequate to cover the information needed from both entities

+ Decreased paperwork eliminates repetition, errors, user fatigue - If communication is not thorough between public and charter schools, there could be instances of missed or extra enrollment. However, I can see this happening MORE with several applications. Also, sharing a common database for applications will require all schools to integrate the database and software and share systems, which may be difficult for some charter schools to implement, or even OUSD.

It makes sense that one application process would simplify last minute placements (so many people hold a spot at an ousd school and a charter school) but I think people are holding multiple spaces because the schools do not satisfy - the real problem. School inequity is the problem.

I think my primary challenge was a lack of understanding of why I would select a charter school vs. a traditional school.

None; seems useful

Choosing a charter is a very different threshold choice than choosing a traditional school and should be kept separate.

I believe that the charters should stay separate since it's a separate system. And I believe every school should hold their own registration process. This whole district registration is not very efficient. Some schools have too many and some have too few and the ones that are hurt in the process are the students and the families and the schools' bottom line. It's kind of scary to have all the registration for all Oakland be run by 2 people. If it's bad now imagine when they pick up the charter applications that will be a disaster!

I don't see any problem with having only one application.

I am not sure what integration of charter and district school applications would accomplish, or what it might indicate. If it moves charter schools towards re-integration into the district, greater accountability to the public, and equity for all students, then it would be good. If it just makes it easier for charter schools to continue without accountability or integration, using public funds, then it seems a disservice to the district and all the students it serves.

The way the high school lines are drawn would have my child going to Skyline which is over twice as far away from my house than Oakland Tech. That's not "neighborhood". That's just strange lines. My child is academically motivated and I would choose private school over Skyline, but would choose Tech over private.

It would be easier for parents and create more equitable access to charters.

It would build on transparency for parents about all of their school options and aid in making the process easier for folks to apply to multiple schools.

I am not familiar with the Charter program, and cannot comment.

Reduced paperwork is always best.

I don't want to see Oakland's resources diverted to charter schools, including district time dealing with charter applications.

streamlined process

Not enough good choices. Huge difference between hill/ flatland or "rich" and poor schools. Losing too many kids to private schools as they get older. Parents should be able to apply once to the schools they want with a simple application process.

Not sure. Seems like these are different options.

Positive: 1) The parents who didn't know about various charters will now have a more concrete way to see what options they have. 2) It simplifies the process to only do paperwork once. 3) Many charter schools are filled with students from out of Oakland by filling out a single form from OUSD they might be given lowest priority. Negative: When I applied for my children to attend charter schools separately I had a choice between the charter and the OUSD school they were placed in. I chose the charter because I was given the district school and not the one of my choice.

I have not thought about it enough to give a good response. My gut reaction is that simple is best, but I would listen to a reasoned argument for having different processes.

xyz

It streamlines the process

I guess, one application can serve all and is sufficient for OUSD and then it can be faxed, scanned and copied for relevant schools.

This would make it easier for all parents, even if they don't have the time/resources to research all the schools.

The "neighborhood school" issue is never properly addressed. School capacities create registration limits at some schools - This could be addressed by creating a core zone (call

it an "umbra") around any school which allows ANY student living there first priority and an outer zone (call it a "penumbra") whose students living there would get secondary priority. We live a three minute walk from a local public school and my son went there back in the 1980s. After he went on to a private middle school (a special one for musicians not available in the public school sector) the zone for this elementary school was changed so that he would be out of the zone because he lived on the other side side of a major street, still three minutes away. One application based on a known address would provide the opportunity to use the umbra/penumbra basis for assignment. The issues of inequality of opportunity could be addressed on a school-by-school basis with more support for schools with a larger number of at-risk students but with more chance of parent involvement to improve outcomes. When parents of students have a neighborhood school then parent commitment to that school improves student outcomes.

Need to get all of the forms online for those of us who are able to do this while still keeping paper options available.

The challenge is that I don't want to "lose" my shot at a neighborhood school to try for very poor odds to get into one of the good charter schools. The benefit would be that it is much easier to apply.

Technically, charter schools are their own school district, so they should have their own application process

I'm not sure what the difference is between a district school and a charter school.

One application that is accessible too all, it should be done ONLINE!!!

I am not sure about the best solution. I have concerns about the resources charters are drawing away from public schools, so I don't want to make it easier for parents to apply to charters and see them as part of the same system. That said, I know it is more complicated for parents to have to complete two applications if they want to apply to both.

Each community is unique and has individual issues/concerns that need to be addressed during registration. The goal should be to work towards a standradized application process thruought all of OUSD, but given the above, it may be a monumental task.

A single application would make for less paperwork, but I also think it also has the potential to confuse people as to which schools are private and which are charter. FYI: The question where I have to rank the 7 ways to be selected for a school is poorly created. I am forced to choose ranking on things that I feel are all bad. I don't believe feeder school students or priority for existing OUSD students.

Negatives: OUSD extra costs for operating enrollment process for charters. Confusion for families who are not aware certain schools are charter schools Positive: Less paperwork for families

--Seems to difficult to carry out. Who would manage it all? --Getting current/accurate info about each school into the hands of all families with school-aged children --Who would families go to if they have a complaint? --Who(what entity) pays?

positives: ease and equality. Negative, no way to distinguish your application aimed at a particular school

I see no challenges. One application streamlines a process that is otherwise cumbersome and favors people with the privilege of time and knowledge of navigating bureaucracy.

positive is that it consolidates to one format negative is that it may be more complicated for schools that otherwise have simple enrollment policies. for example, the charter we go to has a very simple process all online. OUSD enrollment is not as efficient and I would not like to go back to that system. OUSD enrollment asks too much info and you have to repeat it every year. Doesn't make sense. And then to register you have to do it online and then print out a copy to bring to school. Makes even less sense.

Challenge: More options, means possibly more pages and more confusing? Positive: One place, one form, one deadline, one unified OUSD, for all oakland schools is better. p.s. we did options in Kinder and for 6th grade. I feel like we got lucky, though I'd prefer to have a higher priority with feeder schools and not rely on luck.

Eases the task for parents and OUSD as all applications would be compiled together  
It would simplify things for families but might create confusion around whether families attending charter schools are part of OUSD or not. I feel it should be clear that applying to a charter school is opting out of the OUSD system.

Moving to an online enrollment process but it needs to work as expected and be simple to navigate.

Charter schools have different schedules and requirements. It would be nice if deadlines for charters, public and private schools were all the same so parents could know their options and be able to make an informed choice.

I think the policies for dual immersion programs in OUSD are completely useless. We need to make sure that Spanish speaking families understand what these programs are and how they will benefit them. I have Spanish speaking friends that were told they **SHOULDN'T** put their child in a dual language program by the enrollment office!!! This is crazy! The spots in dual language programs are filling with middle class English speaking families. We need to make policies that **MAKE SURE** there is space and support for mono-lingual Spanish speaking, working class families in our immersion programs!! These programs are meant to serve them. I find it wholly reprehensible that the enrollment office would tell a Spanish speaking family to not enroll in a dual language school, especially when they are **SPECIFICALLY** asking for it. They enrolled them at Bridges instead, even though there was plenty of space.

The application should be online. Parents should not have to take time off of work to go and sit in the enrollment office all day. One application, ranking parent's choices is sufficient.

I think that if you put all the schools; charter and district, on one application it would make it easier for families to leave district schools for charters. I happen to think that is a part of the problem. People leave district schools and select out of the group. It leaves families

who believe in district schools and families who don't involve themselves in any process.

I wouldn't want charter schools included.

I did NOT want a combined process, nor did I want to do anything to encourage increased charter school enrollment at the expense of public schools.

My concern going forward is that people with the money are moving into zones for the "best" schools which will mean that affluent families who give generously to their schools will continue to only be in a small percentage of schools leaving most school to suffer

Perhaps not individualized enough to consider a student's interests and why a particular school would be a good match.

I think that if implemented correctly it could reduce the amount of time parents spend on paperwork. However, I see charters and district schools having different enrollment criteria and don't see it working. From a public schools standpoint, it may also drive more families out of district. I don't see this as a school district goal.

Less paperwork for parents and administrators; easier to see the big picture of what you're applying for; standardized application.

Initial thought that it would be easy for the families, not sure what the challenges are.

My question to OUSD: Do charter schools compete with OUSD? I visited one charter school (Yu Ming) and it seemed to me that the charter school competed for funds and children because I spoke to at least one parent who told me they would send their child to their neighborhood school if their child was not accepted to Yu Ming. In the end I chose a OUSD school because I knew 1. it was an excellent school, 2. the staff was unionized and could fight for better pay and had protection. 3. There seemed to be more transparency.

Positive would be easier for parents to have access to all schools in Oakland with one application.

Streamline enrollment process

Parents couldn't hold spaces in both schools limiting the spaces available to others.

Save paper + Less clear -

Don't know enough

easier

Required information should be the same district wide.

## **Additional Feedback**

**Please share any additional feedback or ideas that will help us improve Oakland's school selection and enrollment process.**

Decentralize submission process.

I feel strongly that families that choose private schools for their children should not have the same priority as those families that have worked hard to improve our public schools. I recently went to Oakland Tech open house and saw many families that had gone to private school for middle school. I've worked hard to improve Edna Brewer and should have priority.

Please avoid at all costs becoming like San Francisco. It is the worst assignment system possible and begs people to game the system. Kids should go to school in the neighborhoods in which they live and OUSD should work to make all schools equally good. People leave San Francisco to avoid the school system or they send their kids to private because its so broken. Please don't break OUSD further!

keep it as is - it works well

The main reason we left the district after elementary school and are not sure if we will be back for high school is the lack of really convincing choices. By that I mean schools that have excellent academics, pleasant facilities, small class sizes, are safe socially for all children, stable teaching staff, stable administrative staff all the way up to the superintendent.

Thanks for offering the survey!

We're looking at high schools right now. From what I can I tell, the only safe and academically serious option is Oakland Tech. This is not our neighborhood school. Tech has a program that no other high school has but we will likely not get in because it's not our neighborhood school. We will have to go through a lengthy appeal process and this causes great stress for us. If we don't get in, we will need to move out of the city or go to private or charter school. If you make one application, then I've given up our back up option. All in the name of "transparency." I'm not seeing how this is good for families. If the district is going to make interesting academies, then they need to be available at ALL schools OR we need to eliminate the neighborhood requirement. For example, we may consider Skyline IF they get an IB program for next year. Let's say they do get the program and it's really successful. That's great for Skyline. We can get into Skyline IB now because it's not a popular school. In 4 years, it will likely be more difficult to get into. So under existing rules, you need to live in the Skyline catchment area to have guaranteed access to the IB program? Does that seem like an equitable situation? No, it's not. How can families plan their lives around the changes to school programs or the interests of their kids? These programs need to be fully available to ALL Oakland families or you need to provide the same programs at ALL the schools. Pick one. For elementary and middle it makes sense to have some sort of neighborhood priority so young families can be near home and build community. There aren't big differences in programs as much as I can tell. It would be nice to have more choices however like Berkeley where there are zones so the schools are more or less equal. Kind of sad that within a 2 mile radius school quality can vary so much. I would be good to have more local choices. Also,

from your questions, I can see the district is questioning the sibling priority. This is absolutely insane. This is a BIG city. If a family had to take a bus to get to school and had 3 kids at 3 elementary schools, how exactly would that work? Talk about making it hard on families. Policies like this are exactly what drive families out of cities and are very biased against low-income families. Actually, it sounds pretty anti-family in general. When you have multiple kids at one school, you can really dig in and work in the school community. Forcing families to separate, will dilute our communities. Really bad idea! I hardly think removing the sibling priority will fix the enrollment issues. We've been lucky enough to live near up-and-coming schools for elementary and middle. We've invested hundreds of hours and dollars to improve our schools. Our neighborhood high school is not only unsafe, it doesn't have the academies that our child wants to be in. High School is simply NOT the place to take a chance on. They have 4 years and need to be ready for college. I just don't see good options in Oakland without moving to another neighborhood. This is incredibly stressful for every single family I know - unless they are rich enough for private or live in the OT catchment area. Please focus on improving high schools!! If you require 1 application for all schools, then work with privates too so families who are going to private need to disclose asap and give up their space for the public kids. Lastly, give priority to the families who have invested in OUSD K-8th grade for high schools. I know several families that went private all the way through or just middle school and because they live in the Tech neighborhood they get in automatically or just by lottery while the rest of us are shut out. It's great to bring more families into public but don't do it on the backs of those of us who have been loyal. Give us priority. Thank you!

Wait times and lines are way too long when having to go to the student assignment office to address a problem. Staff there gave inconsistent information as to which lines you have to wait in for the issue you have to address.

My only thought is that priority should be given to OUSD students who complete all of their pre-high school years in OUSD schools. I question the equity of parents who opt out of neighborhood schools during elementary or middle school, only to return during high school enrollment. My fear is that slots are taken from qualified students from disadvantaged backgrounds; who utilized OUSD for their elementary and middle school years, only to lose out at the high school on slots taken by students returning to OUSD from private schools.

Prioritizing race- and class-based integration would be ideal to me.

Get the online system working!!! It is way behind the times and has been essentially non-existent this year though advertised as functional at the time of registration.

I found it difficult to find any information on charter schools.

I am sorry to say that we are currently considering the option of leaving the district because our High School Options are limited. While I have enjoyed my active participation at our local elementary and middle school, I feel it has been the parents that really have helped make our local schools thrive. However, the high school level parents and student

dynamics change and I fear sending my child to our local school. When I see police cars at the entrance of our school it tells me it not safe. It also breaks my heart to imagine how many student are not getting the education they need to live long and successful lives. I wish OUSD would really step back and analyze the injustice done when budget are not correctly prioritized and money is wasted on programs that go nowhere. I wish OUSD would focus on the basics pay teachers fairly, set realistic expectations for teachers and student. While I may have the options to leave others poor families do not, so school could be improved by better outreach, more counseling for student and families more collaboration between administrators, teacher and parents. Programs that help student bridge gaps within their environment. Offer equal education at all schools and enrollment and registration will become more efficient and require less resources and effort. The fact that people try to go elsewhere send a strong and clear message on its own. Thank your for asking and reading my comments.

One of school choice's biggest problems is that it is widely considered to be implemented differently than the rules state. Parent's think it isn't transparent. There's a backdoor to getting into a particular school/program. Putting in an application early vs on time matters. All of this lore confuses the issue. If OUSD bends the rules for diversity, etc, that's probably fine with most Oaklanders, but OUSD should be transparent and clear about how it works. Give parents their kid's lottery number and the total number of spots in each school as well as info needed to recreate your lottery (without giving everyone the key that links all lottery numbers to child identity). This is extreme, but it is what transparency, ultimately, would look like. Then people could run your lottery themselves and see it's fair. The schools that are doing well in Oakland, and those that have significantly improved in recent years, have done so not just because of wonderful teachers, but because of parental involvement -- and this is SIGNIFICANT. This is why I fought years ago to have a siblings-first policy. When siblings share the same school, and therefore the same "school community", parents are much more likely to be involved -- especially working parents who have a limited time to volunteer (and are less likely to do so if they have to split their time between schools.) So Siblings-First is key (if that's what is right for an individual family). Neighborhood schools are a part of this -- sharing a community. However, there is obvious inequity in Oakland's schools and neighborhood schools would ideally be a priority in the ideal situation where all kids can get a decent education at their neighborhood school.

You really need to consider the balance of spanish immersion and native spanish speakers that are needed to make the program work - it was set up to help all students (not just those who want to learn spanish) and as the neighborhood changes the school will slowly change from it's original mission. That said, since it's one of only a few spanish immersions schools, it's unfair that people not zoned in the neighborhood don't get the same option as those in the neighborhood - spanish or english speaking. Perhaps you should open up more spanish immesion schools to keep up with demand

Why isn't priority given to continuing OUSD students when it comes to filling slots after

siblings?! I was born and raised in Oakland and decided to raise a family here. My husband and I both went through OUSD and believe our children can learn a lot from public school. My oldest of three is just starting high school now. Beginning in third grade, I watched as the kids get older and parents chose private, charter, or moved through the tunnel, not trusting OUSD for a proper education, while while small groups of us would continue on and have faith. So it was extremely disheartening and frustrating when applying for high school, that most of those who had chosen private or charter were readmitted to OUSD into their first choice schools over many who had remained loyal. The first round of lotteries should consist of OUSD loyal families only, over private and charter. Enrollment given to students who come from private schools is also taking opportunity away from an Oakland student where public is financially the only choice! I think you could require data from charter schools without common enrollment, since the board is tasked with oversight of charters they grant. Oversight & accountability for charter schools must come first to ensure that the information provided about those schools is fair, honest, comparable, and accurate.

If Oakland Unified high schools and middle schools were better, there wouldn't be so much scrambling to try to get our children into the few schools that rival the charters. I think it is so complicated to figure out how to have diverse, equitable schools. On the one hand, neighborhood priority makes sense because we want families to be able to go to a school that's close by. On the other hand, neighborhood priority means that (for elementary schools at least) there will be some amount of race and/or class segregation, because not all neighborhoods are integrated. I wish I had a wonderful solution to offer, but I don't. I did recently read a book called "When Middle Class Parents Choose Urban Schools" which I thought was really great and might be of interest as you are trying to figure all of this out.

The MOST unfair thing I noticed about the options enrollment process was the opaque nature of the waiting list process. Unless you know to ask, you don't even know about waiting lists. I changed my son's school in August (from neighborhood to another elementary school). I was told the schools we wanted were full. I had to ask to get put on a waiting list and then didn't really know his status on that list. I had to keep coming back to the office to check and didn't know what would happen if I hadn't done that. I am a native speaker of English and have a flexible job, transportation, no immigration concerns and a network of people (non-OUSD employees--other OUSD parents) to consult about the process. Also, being of a middle socio economic class helped, since I felt more empowered to ask about a waiting list. Transparency with wait lists and information about how to get on a wait list would be very beneficial and would be side effect of merging the charter and public school enrollment. Honestly the school wait lists seemed like the hidden menu items at In N Out. If you know to ask for your burger "animal style", you can get it, otherwise you are out of luck.

I wrote about my experience in the last question but I would like to reiterate that OUSD staff should have some priority in the enrollment process since so many employees live

outside of Oakland due to skyrocket housing costs.

It seems like even with the options process, schools are still very segregated by demographics and socio-economic. What would happen if we actually assigned schools to parents in order to evenly distribute the wealth in Oakland. Or, this doesn't have much to do with enrollment--but what would happen if schools were paired up and shared their "extras" such as art teachers, music teachers, etc

Thank you for this survey. The most frustrating parts of my experience were: 1. The complete inability to call or email the OUSD options office approximately 1 week before school started through the first week of class. It's ridiculous that we have to take time off work to physically visit the office (and wait for hours) to get simple questions answered. 2. There needs to be visibility into the waitlist process and also the ability to be on several waitlists. I'm really not sure if OPTIONS is right for Oakland. It appears to keep the bright and well-off students in the better schools and the poorer kids in the under-performing schools.

The school options process has destroyed the diversity in Oakland public schools. Like it or not, parents are choosing schools based on the racial make up they see and whether it fits their image of ideal. As a result, schools are dramatically less diverse than they were 20 years ago, which is alarming to say the least.

I also feel many of the schools lack robust websites for families to get information about the schools.

Spanish-speaking students should be given priority to go into dual immersion schools, because in order for the program to work well, dual-immersion schools need to have 50% of their students coming from Spanish-speaking families.

It would be great for people who work in the district to be able to enroll their children in their first choices.

It's pretty frustrating as a parent and district employee to know that your child has been wait listed multiple times to your top 3 schools of choice and ended up still not knowing what school your child will be attending until one week before school begins. Especially when you met deadlines for enrollement. Especially as a parent, you believe you have "options" of where you want your child to attend school to get their education. However, this does not mean we are NOT satisfied with our current TK program, but We are considering other options as he will be in kindergarten next year and we have another child that will be in TK next Fall.

The written materials send home with student id numbers and log in information for new info portal did not include student names on the form. I don't understand why you don't have a single form for emergency info for families- i.e. why do I have to re-complete the emergency info form for each of my three children- incredibly time consuming. Have you ever studied how much time parents spend completing paper work for their kids to select and enroll in a school? It would be a great study. This survey could benefit from improvements in design- i.e. I have three children. Most families in Oakland have more

than one child- that factor should be accounted for in design. Proactive information sharing from District or schools is limited. Parents have to take all the action. I can't imagine being an LEP parent and trying to navigate all of this.

It seems like if one wants a certain school they can get it by asking for a higher up in the system to help or by digging for info on how to get what they want. For me the options and information is not clear or easily accessible. Information is not kept up to date so if I look up our school right now on various sources it is not a true representation of the school and if I went on that info I'd have not picked that school for my kids. The race breakdown the test scores the principal and many other great facts are not updated on all social sites yet. Other than that I really don't have much experience or knowledge about how it works. And I'm worried about getting into the right school when it's time to switch schools in a year. I hope there is guidance in these transitions (middle to high school change over)

I wish OUSD would put some effort into capturing the student population lost to private schools and the reasons for why this happens. I understand that this is not a major priority for the school district given other pressing concerns. However, there are many people we know who would have chosen to go public if it had not been for mistakes made by the school district. Once these students leave, they do not come back and I imagine that the school district also loses out on a lot of funding as a result.

Academic progress/academic tracking should give students priority to schools that have specialized programs/activities.

Soon my daughter will be entering middle school and we will be looking for a middle school. I cannot seem to find information on teacher and principal turnover at a school. I want stability for my children and stability in teaching staff and administration in a school usually indicates a healthy environment. I would like to see that information provided.

The application process this year was atrocious, despite the most valiant efforts from Peralta's staff (it was an OUSD issue).

administration and distribution of enrollment process has to be more efficient. for instance, we received a form on March 19 saying to respond to this letter by March 15.

All of the schools in OUSD should be high quality. The most effective teachers should be teaching the kids who need it most in the flatlands. The resources should be allocated to support the students who need it most, including higher teacher pay for the most effective teachers who teach in the highest need schools and the implementation of culturally responsive teaching, student agency and mindset and family engagement strategies across ALL schools. The leadership needs to be more effective as well and they should be using data to make decisions about teacher PD, placement and overall student achievement. Even in "high performing" schools in the hills, the teachers are like most teachers in OUSD, under resourced, and unequipped to deliver instruction effectively as they lack the training and content knowledge to do so. The achievement gap in OUSD is disgraceful but perhaps more disgraceful is the fact that the achievement gap is so

significant in the HILLS schools. How does Montclair Elementary have nearly 80% of the white kids meeting the standards and nearly 80% of the economically disadvantaged african american kids NOT meeting the standards? And to add insult to injury, the PTA is spending their \$500,000 on enrichment activities when a group of marginalized students can't read or do math! How is that equitable? Significant changes need to be made in OUSD starting with the allocation of resources and a real commitment to closing the achievement gap across all schools using solid research based methods that actually do close the achievement gap and make a better district for ALL of the students.

I really like our neighborhood school (Hillcrest) but I do think it's unfair that there is such a disparity in school quality in Oakland.

List top ranking schools on enrollment forms with current scores. Have the schools scores available on your website daily and make sure its accurate.

next year

Families that make the effort to keep their children in OUSD and strengthen our schools and communities should have priority over those who got to private schools then want to re-engage with OUSD for high school in order to take advantage of the inner-city public school's status for university. Charter schools drain resources away from public schools. While charter schools are underneath the aegis of OUSD, those who have been in public school should have priority over those who have been in charter schools when it comes to school assignments. Charter schools could have been wonderful, but they way they have been implemented has been disastrous for OUSD, draining resources away from public schools, something I'm certain the original architects had planned. Let's keep this in mind as we move forward

I don't believe the entire process is flawed, but it may need tweaking. Specifically, the appeals process and waiting lists should be more transparent. Also, transportation should be provided in order to support those families do chose to attend a school outside of their neighborhood. Safe, clean neighborhoods are the number one factor in determining where parents will send their children. However, this factor is out of the District's control. What OUSD can control is having effective teachers in every school. It's not about teacher's wanting to get onboard to move instructional practices for the sake of our students, it should be an explicit expectation. OUSD is about what's best for children, right?

For students with IEP's there needs to be easier access to information about the support and resources available to students at each school. For Students who are in full-inclusion there needs to be easier access to information on which schools have inclusion program. The parents have to do all the leg work to even get the basic information. I have been LUCKY that I got my first choice of schools for all of my three children through the option program. There would be no need to even have an option program if ALL the schools in our district were doing well. Who would choose to take their kids across town every day in order to get a decent education? How do we create a sense of community in our

neighborhood when the kids don't even know each other because each of them are shuttled to different schools across Oakland? Having quality schools in our neighborhood is more important than just getting an education.

I am an employee for OUSD for 15+ years, it was extremely disappointing to experience the process of what everyone had been sharing with me. Trying to enroll our only child into Kindergarten was extremely stressful. Suggested Offering in the Enrollment Process: -Notification process should be both paper and paperless form (email). We received our notification late by mail--so we were unable to file an appeal process until we received the form. Once we received it--we tried the appeal process. That was a horrible experience. My husband waiting in line during the morning hours with other parents. Enrollment office did not have process for organizing lines. This appeal process could have saved us time if this was offer on-line. Instead of standing in line at 6:00 a.m. until the office to be open at 8:00. And then to be told--nothing they can do about. Was quite disappointing. And to be told--just keep the school of what you are assign. This did not make sense to me--because I would be holding someone else slot and this would mess up the enrollment count. -Wait list process needs to be align with private school deadline. For us we had to make a quick decision. Being told, to wait until the first day of OUSD school to be open or "whenever" slot open does not sense. -To recruit and attract great employees in OUSD. Make it a priority for employee to get at least 1:6 school of choice. (I am a tax paying home owner, our household voted on many ballots that support public education. To experience OUSD enrollment was disheartening. We count our blessing that it work for us at the end of the day--have enough resources to put our daughter into private school. I know there are some parents who may not have this kind of resources that we do. So it is imperative that we fix the enrollment process and fix ALL Oakland schools. Calling "options choice" is not an option or lottery... this is just a temporary solution to fix all Oakland schools.

I enrolled through the options process and the school assignment office lost my daughter's application so we didn't receive an assignment letter in the mail. I had to go to the assignment office to find out they'd lost it and then get it sorted out.

Anything that can be done to improve economic, racial/ethnic, and cultural integration in OUSD schools will build a stronger system and richer education for ALL students, and is also the most likely way to raise achievement across the board.

Why did Oakland eliminate the priority for students otherwise assigned to a Program Improvement School? How can neighborhood schools continue to exist (great for the environment, community development) but enrollment changes reflect the inequity between different neighborhoods? What support can the district offer neighborhood schools with less wealthy parents so that our schools don't reflect the worst of gentrification? If busing is too expensive and politically complicated, and pooling PTA resources is also complicated, how can the district make sure all schools get to achieve their different visions? OUSD seems to have a partial neighborhood model so that people who live in a "good" neighborhood are set and the rest of us have to scramble. Our

experience is at Sankofa and Peralta.

Ultimately, the best response to this issue is for OUSD to have many more high quality options for students and families spread across the district. The enrollment process is really only a "problem" because there are so many people chasing so few options they consider high quality. Another issue that comes up is that dealing with OUSD staff that is public facing can be such a miserable experience with the utter lack of customer service across the district.

I would love to see a simple schedule online of the enrollment dates, deadlines, workshops, etc. for the upcoming school year 2016-2017. If it is online somewhere, it is not easy to find.

The question in this survey that asked us to rank the priority level of 7 different types of students was somewhat confusing. Some of those "groups" are hard to rank. For example, "Oakland students should receive priority over non-OUSD students". That seems like an "agree or disagree" type of statement. I wanted to make clear that I believe OUSD students should receive priority over non-OUSD students at ANY part of the priority process, except perhaps siblings--that should be #1. In other words, no non-OUSD student should ever be assigned to any OUSD school unless there are no other OUSD students who specifically want to be assigned to said school, except in the case of siblings. I wasn't sure how to rank your options to reflect that opinion.

The questions about priority is confuse because there are thing that can go together.

I really enjoyed sending our child to our neighborhood school. I liked that we could walk there, be a part of the community, and that our kids friends are also our neighbors. However, I am concerned. Our neighborhood school has changed in the 10 years we have been here. It is no longer racially and economically balanced. Obviously the school is a reflection of the changes in the neighborhood. Yet, there is a second school blocks away that has the opposite balance. I don't understand the rational behind this. A second issue is the push for Charter schools rather than just putting the resources into the public schools and giving the principles the power to run the schools as they see fit.

One aspect of the Options Process that is completely broken is the appeals process. There is a total lack of transparency. Many families are unaware that this process even exists. Those who do take advantage of the appeals process tend to be the more privileged, wealthy families -particularly those that complain repeatedly or have financial influence or local political campaigns. Take a look at the Berkeley Public Schools system. It's certainly not perfect, but it is transparent and fair.

I am very concerned about the enrollment process for dual language immersion schools! My daughters school Melrose Leadership Academy had a huge issue with receiving enough spanish speaking families. If we hope to run the curriculum and program with fidelity we must have at least 50% spanish speaking families. How can this be solved in the enrollment process? I did not see any questions for dual language schools included in this survey.

On line registration instead of going to the office by the lake and living in the neighborhood being priority number one.

Change the narrative about oakland district schools. Help schools reach and organize parents in their community to feel a sense of ownership for their community school and the kids in their community. This is the first step in real enrollment.

I am starting to feel that unless the neighborhood school has low test scores, families should be required to start there and then can change if they are not satisfied. Many nice families left our school without giving it a try and if they all went there, it would be a very strong school and community.

It would be fantastic to have an online enrollment option. I found it challenging to get all necessary paperwork turned in in-person last year. Also, you should have the required information listed well in advance. It is less than 1 month before the enrollment period, but there is no information easily available about what supporting documents (if any) will be needed with my children's applications. The OUSD website is filled with links that don't work, or that lead to inconsistent information. I'm trying to compare middle school options for my younger child, and I'm disappointed that there isn't a way to compare schools with consistent information. The SARC seems like an okay option, but I can't find that information about all the schools. My older child is currently enrolled at a charter school, but would like to enroll in a high school-level Academy program. The information about how to move into academy programs is not transparent. It seems inappropriately biased toward the students that are currently enrolled at that school.

The process is scary. Is there any way of demystifying it, reassuring parents they don't have to be physicists to operate within. Coordinating public and charter applications would be a great improvement. While I continue to consider Charter school options, I have been very happy with OUSD and have no plan remove my children from the public school system.

Our school, Redwood Heights had very few tours available. The tour we went on did not show us the classroom at all and we learned very little about the school. I think in part it was because Mrs Bagby is new to the school. It would have been nice to have someone who knew the school really well to do the tour. When we tried to go back to observe the K class we were told no. When I called Sequoia Elementary, also in our hood, we were told to come in anytime and visit and look around.

Oh my goodness - too many items to even start...

Current system works well but info should be better presented. Order works well.

Please see and evaluate my comment to unitary registration above.

The enrollment process isn't that bad, the only real problem we ever had as a family was waiting a really long time at the office to be helped. Put more time into the schools this process works in my opinion.

The main thing that was stressful about options was the uncertainty of it. We did not like our neighborhood school, but we really liked a school nearby that we happen to not be

zoned for. Ultimately we did get into that school and have been delighted by it. I remember talk about expanding the zones to give priority in elementary school to those who are in the middle school boundaries. That would be a helpful compromise.

It would be wonderful to be able to enroll and register students online (with the paper option available too). All info could be compiled automatically for OUSD, making the assignment and registration process easier for all. Thank you!

I think I am pretty experienced as far as all this goes. Both of my children went to Oakland Public Schools from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. My son went to Arts Magnate, Redwood Heights, Bret Harte, Skyline, my daughter, who is 4 years younger, went to Redwood Heights, Montera and Oakland Tech. I know as a parent who has been through this, that parents do look at the data, but they also talk to other parents about their school choices. This doesn't seem to be accounted for in the survey. The survey, only allows one button to be pushed, so it very biased in it's data collection towards people with one child I guess, or maybe people who don't move during their children's childhood. Many Oakland families do move from time to time. I actually thought that moving from Elementary to Middle, and from Middle to High School was pretty smooth and pretty easy. Enrolling in Kinder, or changing schools as I also did, wasn't too difficult. I think that I did most of it at the school sites. My son graduated from Skyline 5 years ago, and my daughter graduated from Oakland Tech last year. I have at times wished that Oakland did have busing, and was able to move it's student population around more. It really isn't ok that Oakland has ended up with schools that have almost 100 percent free and reduced lunch populations. I do actually think that all the schools in wealthier communities should at least be required to carry a free and reduced lunch population of 30 percent.

I used to think the Berkeley Public School lottery system was the model Oakland should follow, because it seemed the most fair and encouraged diverse student bodies -- but I don't believe that anymore. Oakland has more serious problems than Berkeley after gentrification... a lottery will just lead to more white flight from its schools. Also Berkeley High can accommodate most of the district's students -- OUSD really just has Oakland Tech as any kind of comparison in terms of the quality of the education. OUSD needs to first strengthen all K-8 school sites and then redistricting could happen. Charter schools are not sufficiently regulated -- why do they get so many more resources than other schools serving the same neighborhoods? OUSD needs to have full-service campuses that provide the social, emotional, health, and educational support students need who are coming from difficult and underserved situations. Also OUSD loses a lot of its enrollment at the middle school level. The middle schools in OUSD are still in serious trouble. We chose not to send our children to OUSD middle schools. Our communities are not strong and unified enough to maintain schools that only last 3 years -- we need to move to K-8 models so families become even more invested in their communities -- the fact that Hillcrest has been allowed to stay as an island of privilege in OUSD is outrageous. Why don't other communities deserve the same kind of investment???

Moving to CA in the middle of summer three years ago I had no idea how complicated the

enrollment process would be. I spent HOURS at the enrollment office ensuring the correct paperwork was submitted having to return at least once with original copies of documentation to prove residency. It was an unbelievably cumbersome process and I had no knowledge of the schools to be able to list 5 different choices. I listed the two school in the neighborhood we lived in because those were the only two I was familiar with. Thankfully, my children got into one of those schools. If they did not, I honestly do not know what I would have done. It was a nerve wracking process and there appear to be many opportunities for improvement.

It's a bummer when kids who have been friends for almost a decade split up for high school because they don't all get in to OT. It's infuriating when parents who bailed on Oakland middle schools because they were 'not good enough' for their kid apply to and get in to OT taking a spot/opportunity from a kid whose family either can't afford or is largely opposed to private school. The best solution is of course to improve the academic quality of Oakland middle and high schools...increase supply to match demand.

I would like to see the entire enrollment and registration process available online. This year, our school site forced us to complete the application for Free and Reduced Lunch via paper, even though I had already completed it online and had a confirmation number. I have 3 children in the district and the enrollment and registration process is a nightmare. If the student assignment office is going to move to 1000 Broadway, I feel this is an extremely bad idea due to lack of parking, and the time it will take parents to navigate the down town area.

CAN YOU PLEASE PICK & MOVE THE STUDENTS ASSIGNMENT OFFICE TO A MORE CENTRAL LOCATION IN OAKLAND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL FAMILIES WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEAR BY AND FREE PARKING?

I am very disappointed that our superintendent got to shop around and hand-pick a school for his children, coincidentally the only school that has a decent middle school. Yes- transparency is an issue indeed. Also, let's get some school choices in the middle and high school grades that actually challenge high-achieving learners that want to learn (aside from Tech, which is truly like winning the lottery for many). We could learn a lot from Berkeley High's IB and Academic Choice programs, as just one example.

I was frustrated that I had to go to the student assignment center in person to get a place on the wait list for my preferred school. That should happen online or by mail. I have had a difficult/impossible time getting information about special ed services.

It is the responsibility of the enrollment office to do publicity for our schools. Charter schools have the funds and resources to do their own PR. We don't and we deserve to have our school district doing this work for us!! There is no reason to combine charter and public school enrollment. The district should be advocating for its own schools....

It is still difficult to find information on special education options available, and especially difficult to gauge their quality, other than by word of mouth from other parents. I applaud Oakland USD for moving to an electronic enrollment process.

My main problem with the current process is that families don't always learn about it in time to enroll their child for kinder. At the public library where I work, I often hear from parents who wanted their child to go to their neighborhood school, but were unable to enroll their child because the school was full by the time they learned about the Options process. I only learned about it through word of mouth a week before the deadline, when I enrolled my first child. For this process to be fair, OUSD needs to do major outreach and publicity.

There should be away for parents to scan documents that are necessary to prove eligibility for enrollment. For example, if there was a way that families with access to the appropriate hardware to scan immunization records, medical and dental forms that would be helpful (and would prevent me from having to take a day off of work). Or the district could make document kiosks like ATMs, throughout the city. That way parents can bring things like immunization records, proof of residency, etc, without having to come and wait in line like cattle at the student assignment center. I think it would be even better if there could be a smart phone app that parents could use for this. The app could announce district meetings and trainings, emergency information as well as assist with the enrollment process by providing a check list of what's needed. You should create a dashboard of the attributes for a school that not only include test scores, but also other useful data like if there is an onsite afterschool program, an active PTA, staff to student ratios, etc. We need to combat de facto segregation and disproportionately negative outcomes for students of color by allowing families to choose to go into a school because their current school or neighborhood school is an underperforming school or is otherwise unsafe for the student.

There is a lot of competition to get into O Tech. Get Skyline High together and there would be less of an issue. The continual turnover of Principals' continues Skyline's issues. That should be an excellent choice for students, but it is not yet.... We went through the appeals process two years ago and it was completely blind. Luckily our son got in to OT and is excelling in the engineering program which is unique there. But we even considered moving when he did not get assigned this school. We had no communication from the assignment office for weeks. This was more worrisome than the college process.

Most important change would be to make enrollment/class scheduling all online. It's 2015, time to put it all online!

More transparency in how the process works. More accuracy in describing system. Process makes it seem like any child has a chance to go to any school, which is not true. Better responsiveness from OUSD. I called many times with questions re wait list and not one person ever called me back or responded. Too much segregation between the schools.

Any opportunity to make selection and enrollment an online process is much appreciated. While this isn't a solution for every student's family, having to complete the same paperwork year after year is a burden. We can do both paper and electronic!

Application forms should be available online. It's very burdensome to have to pick up the application in person during most people's work hours.

N/A

I believe diversity is important and that assigning school to schools specifically is a benefit to those in ideal areas and schools but a huge disservice to those who may not live in the surrounding area or who really have no clue about the education level the children in less favorable areas receive. It's unfortunate and I fought tirelessly to ensure that my child was not put into the closest school with low testing scores. The first day of school she was at a Charter school in OUSD and I weighed heavily on her going to private to ensure her academic success.

My daughter attends a dual language school in the San Antonio district. Every year, families (including latino families) who want to enroll their kindergarten age children in our school are discouraged from doing so by the student assignment office with language such as : this is not the right school for your child. Such comments from OUSD staff are highly subjective and inappropriate. Other times, students who speak no Spanish are placed in 3rd and 4th grade classes in clear conflict with the school's policy as outlined in the family handbook. Such placements are disrespectful to the school's program and not appropriate for the child.

in the question that asks about In addition to applying to an OUSD school, what other school(s) have you applied to for your children? It does not make sense that one can only chose 1 box, as an example I have applied to both private & charter school but could not check 2 boxes

You need some additional input under each category of the survey. Feeder schools from Elementary to Middle are not the same as Middle to HS, yet the survey gives only one choice. Why is it different? B/c: --Elementary students are too young to be ripped away from their friends. Feeder patterns should feed from Elementary into Middle Schools (after neighborhood kids & siblings). --OUSD has always told us there is a feeder system K-8, but it turns out there's not. --There is too big a variation in the quality of HS programs (it's not fair or equitable). So it's too early to have firm feeder patterns from Middle to High School. --And OUSD has historically said there is not a feeder system from Middle to High School. You can't change this overnight. ie. You have an Engineering Academy at OakTech, but none successfully at any of the other schools!! Both OUSD \$ and Foundation \$ for Engineering & Tech are ALL GOING TO ONE SCHOOL! So either: a) Make HighSchools program specific and anyone can get into those from anywhere in Oakland -OR- b) Replicate the Highest Demand Programs at the other schools.

I am very concerned that the current systems leads to schools that are not diverse. The "better" schools are supported by an incredible amount of PTA/PTO money. I have seen schools in North Oakland that are within a mile from each other but have vast differences in enrichment and staffing available.

Children and their families who live on the same street should not be split up by boundary

lines that accept one side of the street and not the other (example: Victor Ave in Redwood Heights). This doesn't allow school children who are neighbors to attend the same school, and splinters and disrupts the concept of neighborhood, rather than promoting it. This policy is harmful to children, neighborhood families, and the concept of community!

The enrollment process is clunky and inefficient and would improve greatly if it could be completed online for new students. Additionally, once we were accepted at our school, communication was scarce. The school's website could have been updated more often to let parents know of upcoming events rather than relying on the PTA's yahoo neighborhood groups.

Integration sounds like a bad idea if your plan is to only "bus" African American students out of their neighborhoods. I wouldn't touch it unless you plan to move some of the Rockridge/Lake Merritt folks to McClymonds! The current system allows for siblings, neighborhood kids and lottery kids to attend specific schools. It sounds fair if that is what is really happening! I asked repeatedly at the Student Assignment Office to have the lottery system explained but to no avail. My daughter did not get into Oakland Tech (from a private school) but somehow ALL of her white friends (no siblings and NOT in the neighborhood) managed to get in. I don't like to throw around the race card but something is amiss. Meanwhile, all of her black and brown friends that applied were waitlisted. They have since moved on to private schools. I would like to hear the lottery system explained. I have no faith that the process is random.

The "online" registration this year should not have included a paper letter mailed through the postal service. We were traveling at the time it was very inefficient to have to find someone to come check our mailbox every day (and ours came very late) then send us a code to be able to complete an online process. It should either be all online or just have the forms on a website where people can print them then turn them in to their school.

Our neighborhood school is great, so the current system benefits us. I imagine parents like me, whose children attend the "hills schools" are pretty happy. It's wonderful to have my children at our neighborhood school; we can walk to school, we know the neighborhood kids, and we can easily set up carpools to extracurricular activities (which is important for working parents). In an ideal world, all neighborhoods in Oakland would have excellent schools. But they don't. So the system seems unfair because there is an inherent inequity within our schools, primarily (but not entirely) linked to the socio-economic status of families in the neighborhood (eg more affluent families donate a lot of money to pay for programs other schools can't afford). Yet if we changed our system to something more similar to that in Berkeley, I imagine more parents would send their kids to private schools, thus replicating the inequity. I honestly don't know what the answer is and am glad you're looking at this problem. Good luck!

So far the enrollment process for both my children has been simple and straightforward. I have one child in 11th grade at Tech and another in 6th grade at Montera. The options process is fair. Don't mess with it; otherwise you'll end up with the enrollment disaster that

is San Francisco Unified.

See previous comment. I think OUSD should stick with neighborhood schools for it's public schools, with all their plusses and minuses. For charters, there is an opportunity for streamlining access and making access more fair -- low-hanging fruit that will not engender much opposition..

The lottery was one of the most stressful events I have endured related to my daughter. The school closest to us is under-performing and despite Herculean efforts by neighbors, remains a place that I would NEVER consider sending my child. Waiting for her placement was cruel. Should she have been forced into our neighborhood school, we would have been forced to move - with very little time to relocate. As a single mother, who runs her own business, with no family around, and with a mortgage that I can afford, moving would have been devastating to our lives and future. I appreciate and want all children to to have an excellent school - but I am not willing to jeopardize my child's education and safety in the process. The lottery is barbaric.

My suggestion for priorities for enrollment are: 1. Siblings 2. Neighborhood residents 3. OUSD students (non charter) 4. Charter 5. lottery Some of our schools are being impacted by kids from private schools that think they have a better chance of getting into college if they come from an "inner city" school.

OUSD needs to work harder at diversifying Oakland schools and making them equitable. My husband works for the city, we pay an incredible amount of money in property and city taxes and we own a home in a very nice area however our neighborhood school is low performing and lacks diversity. We would have loved to send our children to our neighborhood school but the resources and opportunities lacked in comparison to other schools. Ultimately, with a lot of persistence we got into our preferred school but the process was incredibly emotional and unfair. The student assignment center hours are not accessible to working parents and no one ever answered the phone when we called. The enrollment process was so troubling that my husband and I heavily considered moving outside of the very city we contribute so much to.

I moved to my neighborhood because of the great public elementary school. No idea of the middle school or high schools yet, but they seem to have more uphill challenges. Removing neighborhood as a priority would certainly integrate our schools and make everything far more equitable. But realistically, making that change would result in the district losing many more affluent kids to charters etc. Pushing out families with more resources won't help in the long run because a lot of the 'good' schools are 'good' because parents put in a lot of time and money. What about an approach of heavily investing - one school at a time - in specific neighborhood schools to make them more attractive to those who live nearby? As it is, we would not have considered Laurel, our neighborhood school. But how great that would have been if my kids could have walked to school... It gets even tougher at middle school. My older kids are now at a charter and we are planning on private high school. As an OUSD grad and longtime resident, this

makes me very sad. Happy to share more thoughts, and I'm glad OUSD is thinking about this.

I worry that the sibling priority may be dismantled. The most successful community engagement process I have seen after more than a decade as an OUSD parent was the one that resulted in elevating sibling to the top priority. It was clear from all the different engagements that this is what families wanted. I think ignoring this is a bad move.

As a Chabot-Claremont-Tech parent, I find it incredibly frustrating that families choose Chabot and Tech (because they are high-performing schools) and bail out of the district for middle school. At the same time, I know non-district-1 families that were able to attend Claremont Middle School and then did not get into Oakland Tech. It does not seem equitable that families who abandon the district schools for middle school then have the luxury of opting in to a great school like Oakland Tech. I wish there were incentives in place to motivate families to attend district schools from K-12.

My concern with the Options Program is what happens after people get their school assignments, and the appeal process begins. This is a very murky process, and frankly it always seemed to favor the whiter, wealthier, pushier people. We were working very hard for years to get people to come to our local school, and every year OUSD Options -- and appeals -- worked against our efforts. I think people should have to try their neighborhood school -- if it's not in PI -- for one year before trying to get out of it. If OUSD could get neighborhood people to send their kids to their local school, and thus improve the "up and coming schools", it would strengthen the whole system. Not to mention, it would be transparent, and fair to all the children of Oakland, including the least pushy!

Perhaps the system should be tested on a panel of volunteer parents who generally don't operate computers. The initial announcement ought to be sent with all "how to" info and student info; as if it were being explained to an elementary child.

Please share publicly the results of this survey to the public. I would like to receive the data @ [aurora.e.barajas@gmail.com](mailto:aurora.e.barajas@gmail.com)

Our family has chosen to be a part of OUSD for 9 years, and we have easily volunteered thousands of hours to improving our children's schools for the benefit of all students. At the same time, we have watched families leave the district after elementary school because they feel that the middle school options are not good enough, only to return to the district for high school. It is frustrating to parents like ourselves and our peers who have made a commitment to wanting to see OUSD thrive and improve and who want to remain in the district from K-12, and witness students from private middle schools get preference over OUSD students at the high school level. Currently, we are proud to have our children in OUSD and all that it offers, but admittedly, it is a challenging district to be a part of. We have worked tremendously hard to support our teachers, improve school climate, and provide resources where the district and schools are unable. Honestly, the sweat equity that we have contributed has amounted to a year-round, part-time job. I understand that OUSD is a very complex district with many factors to consider, but it's

important to retain families who WANT to be a part of the system, who believe in the value of public (district-based) schools, and who contribute to making schools better for all. If the district were to prioritize students who have stayed within the district schools, over students from private or charter schools, especially as they enter high school, then more families would not leave at the middle school level. It is important that OUSD recognize its committed families by creating a priority for returning OUSD students.

none

Have paperwork out on time. Give option to change language

I wish I could offer solutions, but I do not have real inside knowledge into how Options actually works. I can say we eventually were able to enroll in a school we are very happy with (our 6th choice), but this was 3 weeks into the school year and required weekly and then daily visits to the assignment office. I don't think we would have gotten this placement if we didn't have the resources to advocate as much as we did. Would the district consider giving Options priority to students with poorly performing neighborhood schools? This could help create more equity.

The District does not seem to reward its own schools that meet its own goals. My children attended Melrose Leadership since MLA began the dual immersion. The district has not helped us with enrollment. OUSD rewards charters and other schools. Does the district even want successful academic and cultural integration? Does the District want more Montclairs? My daughter left MLA to live with her mother in Alameda this year, because OUSD failed to plan for success. I only have two kids to give you.

I sometimes wonder if a Berkeley-type model of aggressive busing would work in Oakland. Oakland's schools are poorly integrated, and I think the flatlands schools would benefit. But I don't know whether such a system would just increase the white flight and not result in any actual improvement for OUSD.

If the enrollment process requires an action on part of the applicant, try to ensure that there is a clear and working process in place for them to complete the action.

The staff at the student assignment center was very helpful for our family. I could see that they had an amazing amount of work to do to get all the students assigned to schools across the district. I would think that streamlining and/or automating the process would help them, and the families to make the process more seamless and transparent.

My son applied for kindergarten at Crocker in 2012. We live within the school boundary. He was NOT assigned to Crocker, and was NOT assigned to any of the four other OUSD elementary schools that we listed on our application. Upon learning more information from public meetings held with OUSD representatives, I found out that though we were told children were selected based on a lottery basis, in fact, there were some preferences given based on address/location, and it was not a true lottery. That is appalling, deceptive, not transparent at the time of the lottery, and completely unacceptable. Based on current policy, I understand that out of neighborhood siblings received spots at Crocker before children with eligible addresses. I do not believe that should be the case.

And finally, if a child who would like to be assigned his/her neighborhood school is not assigned to that school, the family should be able to choose the school for the child to attend (based on openings); OUSD should not be in charge of that school choice.

I think parents should be required to list 6 school but then they must be guaranteed to receive one of these options.

Students from private schools wishing to go to public schools should not get priority over students that have stayed in public schools

My primary frustration, other than the timing being late, was that I had to enter the same exact information for both of my kids. I'd recommend either having 1) a single application for a family - to enter information for multiple kids; or 2) a way to replicate information into sibling registration forms. Thank you for requesting feedback from our community!

Sibling priority should continue to be the number one factor.

First - thank you for asking. One thing that might be helpful though is that there are several of us that had at least two kids transitioning this year (6th and 8th) - and so we could only fill out this survey based on one kid's experience. In our case, it worked for one, not the other, so you are only getting the negative feedback. Second - I think what I found most frustrating about the Options process was that there was no opportunity for the assignments office to really hear an appeal...that all kids are weighted equally rather than hearing if there were legitimate reasons for a kid needing to be in another school. One thing I think most people will miss, but I picked up on right away in your survey is that OUSD kids are currently being treated the same as kids from Berkeley and Orinda with regard to enrollment and that is not in compliance with your School Board's policies. I hope you will address this. You might consider more transparency in the lottery system - some school districts literally have a public lottery where numbers are drawn. Without this, everyone is left to assume that there's some mysterious algorithm being used. Also, I know it will be unpopular - but it would be great if there was some way OUSD could give priority to families who've stuck with their neighborhood school, rather than going to a private or a charter - and give them preference. It's sad that so many learning communities are being broken up in Oakland in order to make room for families who want to come back for high school because they think it will help their kid get into a better college. And finally, thank you for taking this issue on. It definitely needs fixing.

I am satisfied with the current school selection process and do not wish to see it changed. However, the enrollment process for continuing students at specific district schools was a mess this year. I don't see why that can't be done completely online.

The most confusing part of enrollment was going to the administrative building, then going on line and then providing the hard copies to the school. It doesn't make sense to have some many steps to enroll. Just make it easy for the families to enroll.

I am pretty torn in how to answer this. I don't have a problem with the options process, but I do have a problem with the disparity between different schools and the lack of diversity in the "good" schools. At the same time, I believe in being in a neighborhood

school where kids know their neighbors and go to school with them. But it's upsetting that you would have to buy a house in a neighborhood with a "good" school when there are so many schools in OUSD. I don't think people would be so upset about the options process if the schools themselves had more resources and quality programs.

More online resources and application needed.

Make OUSD schools seem like a choice to be made rather than a fallback position -- take a few pointers from how the private schools understand what the parents are going through and they provide information on that. A tab on the website for an "Overview of How to Apply" with access to a timeline, required paperwork, different ways to get information about particular schools (scores, demographics, visits, PTA), and how the options process works all in one list. (I understand that many families do not have internet access, but they can have the same information in paper format). Good luck!

The registration process is seriously flawed. It is unnecessarily complicated. There are tech and process improvement changes which could improve it greatly. For example have fillable forms where all of the information which needs to be repeated is filled in on all of the forms. Less steps/tables at the reg event...cumbersome, confusing and takes too long. That said we love Oakland Tech!

Our middle school options are atrocious. I will not even have a top six, I have difficulty having a top 3. Limiting my options further by combining the 2 types of schools together leaves me no other choice to further maximize her potential to attend a good school by forcing me to consider charters, trying to transfer her out of the district, or move to avoid the choices we currently have as middle school options. They are mostly unsafe, low performing, and really don't feel like options at all, they feel more like choosing the lesser of the evils. My daughter attends a good elementary school that I fought OUSD for months to get her into. And now I have to beg to send her to the middle school next door because we are not a neighborhood family, in order to keep her close to her brother who is still at the elementary. I will be begging for a spot at a school where last week the kids from that school yelled racial slurs at her through the fence. But that is the better of my option choices- at least with the applications separate, I can freely apply to as many charters as I would like.

I'd like to see enrollment and registration streamlined/combined. It seems a waste of paper & resources to have to fill out so many paper forms.

Transparency about who gets into the ousd schools is needed. OUSD should adopt a lottery system like the charter schools.

OUSD needs to let all parents know that it has good schools. I send my daughter to Lincoln Elementary and we love the school. You should have all the schools do open houses and show people that kids do get, science, art, music, and PE.

It would be amazing to have this process be transparent. The stories I've heard from parents who have spent countless hours trying to navigate this process, and then be given conflicting information -- the district needs clear guidelines and set expectations so

it's not such a mystery as to who gets in and who doesn't. Thanks for realizing this is a problem and asking for the community to provide input.

We applied to 6 schools. None were our neighborhood school. We were assigned to our neighborhood school (Piedmont Avenue elementary). We moved into a new neighborhood with a better performing neighborhood school (Hillcrest), then were waitlisted for that new neighborhood school. Essentially, it seemed neighborhood was a priority assignment factor if you're in a poor performing school catchment, but not if you're in a high performing school catchment. Other thoughts: Getting someone to answer the phone at OUSD was hit-or-miss. Emails were hit-or-miss (and I had to do a ton of detective work to even find out who I should email). The only option was to show up at the office, which is really prohibitive for a working parent, particularly when lodging an appeal and following up on it required no less than 8-10 visits to the district office. Further, it was seemed as though there was no real "rhyme or reason" to how students actually made it off a waitlist and into a school. I was told by those at the OUSD office to stay in contact with the school principal. I was told by the school principal that they simply wait to hear the latest from OUSD. My position on the waitlist moved up, then moved back - without any explanation of why. Transparency was non-existent. I also felt that while everyone at OUSD was courteous, they all seemed to forget that there are CHILDREN involved here, who are faced with the prospect of waking up on the first day of school and not having a place to go. Or starting at a school and then switching 2, 3, or 14 days into the school year. We're shuffling them around like they are pieces of paper, not little kids who are making the most significant (and scary) transition of their lives to date. Yes, kids are resilient and flexible. But that's no excuse. Lastly, for parents who require after school childcare, not finding out where your child is going to school until late August/early September is a serious problem. Most on-site after school programs won't let you register your child until they are OFFICIALLY registered with the school (waitlists do not count). And all after school child care is dependent on what school your child attends, unless you pay a private child care provider to pick up your child, which is financially out of reach for most families. I really feel like this program favors kids with parents who have resources, flexible work schedules/employers (i.e., higher-level salaried positions), and the time, will and understanding to tirelessly advocate to get their child into a quality school. And even for those families, it is still painful and difficult. There has to be a better way that is more just for everyone and puts the kids first.

I feel like the system of everyone "applying" for schools as children enter Kindergarten may have been a good idea in the beginning to give every child a chance to attend the higher performing schools, however, with the way the system works, it's still so segregated. By giving families the option to attend school outside of their neighborhood, I feel like this just makes the better performing, more desirable schools (that have more money from active PTAs) stretch further away from the lowering performing schools. It doesn't make sense to me why people wouldn't want to make the school in their neighborhood better by putting their time and money into it. We're just creating a larger

gap between the "good" and the "bad" schools. I can understand why this process was adopted back in 2005(?). There was the thought that it would give every child access, but it doesn't. The people with money send their children to their neighborhood schools because they're good schools. This leaves everyone else scrambling to get in places, getting placed on waitlists, making appeals, etc. It no longer makes sense.

I think that neighborhood schools are great as they build community and make parental involvement easier. Parent involvement is a key factor in successful schools. When a community is engaged its neighborhood schools, it is good for the families and for the community. We don't need kids wasting hours on buses or in cars commuting to schools across the city!

Better programs offer to the children of oakland and single mothers like myself who work a office job 9-5 and not able to pick up my child at 3:30 so the after school activities are really helpful.

Once siblings and neighborhood kids are placed, I feel strongly that priority should be given to OUSD students. Then (grumble, grumble) charter. Then private (way, way down on the totem pole.) An example is what happened at Tech this year when a number of OUSD middle school students were placed on Tech's waitlist while quite a few private school kids (I personally know at least six — all from out of the neighborhood) received slots. By giving priority to OUSD students (at the high school level) you encourage them to stick with OUSD middle schools rather than "bailing" for MS and then coming back for high school. Also, I believe you need to give more support to high schools such as Skyline and Oakland High — they have the potential for great success, but have neither the time nor energy to promote themselves. Parents need to be sold on a school — impressions matter. That means websites, Information Nights, Open Houses, brochures, etc all need to shine. I believe the district's communications team needs to helicopter in to help.

Please prioritize communication, access to information, updated information on website. I think communication has improved over the years, but information remains a challenge, i.e., finding out about an important meeting the day it takes place, ease of navigating website. Transparency also important so that applicants feel they will be treated fairly. Thanks for doing this survey!

Why not try to make all school in Oakland good schools?

I strongly believe schools should be local to students. Local schools build community and can approve school performance. Please read attached

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/10/27/450903995/forcing-schools-to-hit-the-reset-button> Thank you, Eric

I think the district should prioritize enrollment processes that would increase integration of kids based on race and socio-economic class. Also provide less privileged parents with more information-rich info about schools (not just test scores + generic info). Better transportation options would help too.

I applied for TK for my son and was assigned to a school far away, when my neighborhood school offered it and it was the only school I had asked for. I called/wrote the Assignment Office as well as the school he was assigned to, and our preferred school down the street multiple times, and the issue was not fixed. Months later, after I had already declared him in every way possible as not attending OUSD for TK, I got a note home from his new teacher at his TK-assigned school. It was this process that was the main decision point in whether to pursue TK or keep him in private preschool another year. It made me very wary of the process. Although, I was pleasantly surprised when he got his first choice for kindergarten in OUSD. That process was better. However, registration (or at least communication about it) was hard. I think there needs to be better education and outreach for kinder/new families.

I think that students who leave OUSD for middle school and then return for high school should NOT be given the same priority in the enrollment lottery. As a family with students who have stuck with OUSD through middle school-a time when many families leave-it was so discouraging to discover that students who went to private schools for middle school came back to OUSD and got spots at my son's desired high school and he didn't. We have been here all along, shouldn't that count for something?

Feel free to contact me. I would like to meet with the superintendent to further discuss this very serious and longstanding inequitable practice in Oakland.

I voted priority for siblings and neighborhood primarily to promote walking/riding to school and ease of drop-off and pick-up. However, I realize there is a lot of inequity in neighborhood schools, simply due to property taxes, parental involvement, school infrastructure, and the culture of the staff, among other things. I can't think of a good way to resolve this. The enrollment process in general is exceedingly cumbersome. Although I am experienced, already have two children enrolled in my local school, I had a lot of questions with enrolling my third child. I got a huge packet of paper with forms to fill out (MD and dentist forms, etc.). I was told to bring them in to the school, but the school kept telling me to wait. All summer, I answered questions from new Kinder parents who asked the same things. "Wait." We were not told anything official. I'm not sure if it's common to not have class assignments or not be able to turn in paperwork until a few days before school starts, but it is a big source of stress for parents who work or who plan vacations that week, and don't know any of this in advance. This past year, the ability to register online seemed like a great advantage, but the roll-out with the delay of codes after being told to do it was frustrating, as was the lack of clear instructions for how to do it. Despite doing as much as possible, we still had to go in to the school. Again, I consider myself an expert, but it was very confusing and there seemed to be no clear communication except "Register" and "Not yet" and "Show up." The staff at our school is kind and helpful and reassuring, and a lot happens just through word of mouth. Finally, have you ever considered something like one of the online questionnaires that helps people choose political candidates that best suits their voting style, based on how they feel about issues and how strongly they feel about them? This sort of thing may help people narrow down

their choices for school selection. For example, on a 1-10 scale, people can rank questions like "I want my school to be within walking distance" or "It is important that my school has aftercare on site" or "I want to have an active music and arts program" or "It is important that my child is in a school with diverse families from many different backgrounds and cultures" or "I want a school that focuses mainly on academic achievement and college preparation."

OUSD's high school enrollment process is broken. My child attended OUSD public schools from K - 8 and was given the same chance of being admitted to his high school of choice as children from Orinda and children from private schools which does not seem fair. The Student Assignment office could never give us a clear answer on the waitlist process -- made us feel like it was all made up. The solution is for Oakland to invest in high schools so that our neighborhood high school is a viable option and to prioritize kids who have been OUSD students K - 8 for high school.

Incentive to parents who participate in school success

We were in a situation where our neighborhood school (Lakeview) was slated to be closed the year my daughter was going to start kindergarten. Our section of the neighborhood was placed into the Crocker Highlands area and our daughter got assigned to Crocker, which we were happy with. A group of parents in the original Crocker boundaries however was unhappy that people from our part of the neighborhood were let into the school which made for a relatively unpleasant introduction to the school community. After much agitation from those parents, our part of the neighborhood was removed from the Crocker area. We are still there and love the teachers and we have met many great people. However, the lack of diversity at the school is unfortunate. I personally would like to see more space for kids from other parts of Oakland, although the school is completely at capacity and I do appreciate having school friends live close to us. Generally it is unfortunate that oakland schools are economically and racially segregated, but I understand the benefits of neighborhood based schools, so I do not envy the position that OUSD is in. Good luck!

A big reason we chose a local OUSD elementary school over a private school is the sense of community. I like that we've gotten to know the kids and parents in the neighborhood - we run into them after school and on weekends, we arrange convenient play dates, we can help each other with babysitting. This is a unique and valuable benefit. Sending kids across town or to a private school does not provide that benefit. That's unique to a local public school and I hope this remains an essential part of the school assignment process.

The options process seems to work well on the initial application but when the neighborhood school is assigned there is instruction to note only one school as an appeal choice. But I selected 6 schools, why was I only allowed to note one for the appeal process? It makes it difficult to know which one so that I have the best chance of getting one of my top 6 I originally requested.

Better communication with parents, letting them know to only contact the student assignment office to check on enrollment procedures, processes and waiting list would be helpful to the staff of the individual schools and less confusing to the parents. Also, having more staff readily available to answer parent questions and or providing updates more frequently would alleviate quite a bit of the tension during what can be a stressful time for parents.

I would like my board member to coincide with my neighborhood school. My address falls in district 4 but our assigned school is Glenview so our board member is totally disassociated with our school.

Would be helpful if we have them type middle schools in OUSD - would keep more of our students in OUSD. example, Visual and Performing Arts middle school, Parents that want to send their students to a school outside of their neighborhood, emphasis should be placed on attendance as well. If the school is across town and the students are chronically absent at the previous school then going outside of their residence should be null and void. Schools do not always have open house for the parents. For example, my home school is Grass Valley and I never hear anything about the school in my neighborhood. This send a false representation of the school especially in my community.

Twice my child did not get in through the lottery system. I am aware of many private school and out of district students getting priority over loyal ousd students. The wait list system is not transparent. Rules and criteria constantly change.

I completed the online registration but was asked to complete it again in written form by my daughter's school (and ended up having to do it twice). The district is not keeping pace with current technologies. I received a TEXT message directing me to click a link to listen to a voicemail. That TEXT message could have been a link to the survey with a brief message requesting feedback on the enrollment process. For those that opt in to receive text and email technologies those methods of communication should be more widely adopted by the district (for enrollment and everything else).

I urge Oakland to look at all of San Francisco's problems with no neighborhood schools and not to follow in that direction. Neighborhood schools are essential for parents and kids to create community, which is what we need more of in Oakland.

It seemed that the process was overly complicated for staff at student assignment and relied on a complicated balancing act of papers and spreadsheets. In short, it seemed messy. More flexibility in the hours of the student assignment office would support working parents. Couldn't some staff agree to a flexible schedule and work later once a week so it would be more convenient for working parents including OUSD employees.

Bringing the process online would be an admirable goal, but not if rolled out like some of the other online projects - which were failures on the technology side.

The personnel in the student assignment office need to reflect the diversity of the families and children in the community. There should be oversight in assignments-students of

families with capital:political, monetary clearly are placed at the front of the line. The options process to schools like Kaiser, Montclair, Chabot, Lincoln, Oakland Technical are unfair with no regard for families of color-in fact it is "de facto" segregation. Enrollment slots are hidden and protected by student assignment officials. The Office of Civil Rights need to be involved as well as a neutral, diverse oversight committee

I am a teacher (TSA) in OUSD and I have worked here for 14 years. My kids will be entering kindergarten in the next few years and I am concerned with where they will go, and, if they only get placed in an undesirable public school, how I will be able to afford private school for them. I think OUSD employees should be able to put their children at the top of their chosen school's wait lists. We work hard for you and make a fraction of the salary of similarly educated people in the Bay Area. Shouldn't we get the one perk of making sure our own children get into the school that suits our needs, be it location, teaching quality, curriculum etc.?

It would be great to have a calendar/parent toolkit to help navigate the timeline for applications and processes associated with the lottery process.

You currently have a situation where wealthy Hills families literally believe they are above the system. It's just shocking. Meanwhile, we're struggling family in Adams point who have been put into a school or none of the children even speak English . How is the serving **\*\*either\*\*** community fairly?

I received misinformation at the enrollment meeting held before the enrollment forms were due (the assembly put on by the Student Enrollment Office). They said Melrose Leadership Academy was my neighborhood school if I lived in Maxwell Park. It is not, Laurel School is.

I don't like the fact that those of us who have worked very hard to improve the public schools are not given any priority over those who left the public schools and either went to private or charter schools.

The application process was very confusing, I was unclear on what it meant to rank the schools (did I have to fill in all the choices, even if I was only interested in one school? what would happen if I didn't?) I ended up ranking schools we weren't interested in attending, and then was terrified that we would end up there. We ended up at our first choice neighborhood school, but it was nerve wracking in the meanwhile.

We are just struggling with the fact that if you do not live in a wealthy neighborhood school options are limited, esp for high school.

This school system in Oakland is unjust, by the very nature of economic injustice. I don't have a solution to that. But for the most part, I don't think the enrollment process in Oakland is broken, and therefore, does not need fixing. Why spend money and time on this survey to fix something that isn't broken? How about using that money to support the schools that need it most? Why so much love for charters?

I have been through the options process several times. I have had issues every single time. Three times our lottery choices were rejected, and I did not appeal. The first time we

got into a school of choice, we had again been rejected in the regular lottery, but I appealed the decision and my twins got into one of my choices for third grade. The last time I used the lottery, for sixth grade, I very clearly indicated on both applications that I had twins, and that one was special needs and had in fact been priority enrolled in Montera's ASIP program, and STILL the office messed up and assigned my daughter to Montera (first choice) and my son (the SPECIAL NEEDS one whom the district said needed ASIP) to a different school, not Montera—not even Edna Brewer, the only other school with ASIP! So I do not have a tremendous amount of faith in the competence of the folks in the enrollment office.

The survey didn't allow me to input more than one option for a couple of questions where my answer varied depending on the needs of each of my children. So, for additional detail, I sent both my children to our neighborhood public elementary school with no hesitation. I sent my older daughter to our neighborhood middle public school with no hesitation. My younger daughter is going to our neighborhood public middle school, but we did apply to one charter school for her too. Our preference was still our neighborhood school. For my older daughter's high school, we did not want to go to our neighborhood school, so we used the options process for a different high school, and we looked at private. She was placed in our neighborhood school, so we chose private.

I strongly support neighborhood schools. This is important in building community and buy in for support of the school.

there was a lack of clear instructions about the enrollment process: deadlines, where to return forms, etc. This was compounded by multiple sources distributing information and no clear outline for the process.

My daughter goes to Emerson, and I've noticed that our low-income families miss the options period, and are unaware that TK and kindergarten can become impacted making it difficult to enroll. OUSD needs to get the word out to low-income and ESL families in Oakland so that they can enroll in their preferred school.

See my earlier comment. All kids deserve a good school not just ones who's parents can afford an expensive neighborhood

Provide a profile of the principal, his/her personality, career, focus at the school etc. as this is the on site leader for the staff and the facility and has a great effect on the culture and environment for the kids. Could be helpful for parents. I think the curriculum info (eg what is covered by grade) is not presented in a easy to compare way (eg with private schools) for incoming families with choices.

The appeal process was mysterious. Also, we found out later that the glenview school issue caused many families to apply to our first choice school at sequoia. Please make the appeal process more transparent and understandable for all parents. not just those in the know. also, lotteries and prioritizations can happen many different ways. If you can provide examples of how a few typical childrens' numbers are picked and then moved through their preferences, that would be very helpful I'm very disappointed at after care

options for current school. I realize these are not part of the enrollment process, but it's terribly confusing to organize my child's entire day - especially when coming from a daycare/pres school environment that provided full day coverage

Every school should be a 10. If that was the case the process would simple. Even the schools that have good teachers and present parents are still in the 6 and 7's. The most recent test scores were unsettling. Unfortunately, there are 0 options after 5th grade.

I really would like OUSD to take some responsibility for ensuring at least some measure of racial and socioeconomic integration at Oakland schools. In my observation, the options process has led to parents essentially self segregating at many schools. (For example, at my daughter's school - Chabot Elementary - even though there are tons of families from outside of the neighborhood (~35%), many, many of those families are white, upper middle class and highly educated.) This is disappointing and I believe is at least partly responsible for inequity in OUSD as a whole. Please address this.

I think the biggest challenge in OUSD enrollment is that parents have "perceptions" about schools based on "common knowledge" that is not accurate at best and rooted in racist and classist assumptions at worst. Schools that, as an educator myself, I have visited and think are great are considered less desirable than hills schools that are "great" because of the income levels of students' parents. I'm not sure how we address this bias, but I see it as critical to having an equitable enrollment system.

OUSD students and Oakland residents should have priority placement over out-of-district students.

Fix the parity of schools - The options process will never work so long as there are good schools and not so good schools.

We opted out of all the Oakland schools because of transportation issues. We are on the west side of San Pablo Ave and our assigned school is Sankofa, on the east side of Shattuck. We do not have a car, so that means the kids would be walking or biking over 4 major streets: San Pablo Ave, Market, MLK, and Shattuck. The crossing at Market doesn't even have a stop sign and a man was killed there (63rd and Market) by a car last November. If people in vehicles can't see grown men crossing a street, they definitely won't be able to see my 2nd grader and kindergartener. There are no crossing guards for any of the intersections either. Because school is compulsory, the district needs to provide safe access to the schools. We ended up going with a homeschool charter that has an independent study option (Vista Oaks) because we could not get our kids to school safely and they sat on waitlists for charter schools in the neighborhood. Another issue: as far as charter schools in OUSD, NOCCS should give preference to Sankofa-boundaried students as they do with the Longfellow neighborhood because of transportation access to schools. For my kids to get to NOCCS, they would only have to cross San Pablo and Stanford- just 2 major roads compared to 4.

The availability of extracurricular programs is not clear. Websites are not maintained across the district so it is clear what programs exist at which schools. Parent satisfaction

surveys should be conducted at the beginning, middle, and end of the year and results should be made public. Teacher retention rates should be clear. Services are not clear from school to school. In general, it's impossible to find what we need from OUSD and we have been repeatedly disappointed in dealing with the District despite really wanting to be here. Similarly, the amount of time, energy, and resources spent fighting teachers last year was astounding and the hiring of top officials at exorbitant salaries decreased trust. We will move away at some point - but not because enrollment is an issue, but because despite some amazing champions and great workers in OUSD, there just isn't enough quality communication, commitment to retention, etc.

The yearly registration process on paper is terrible. We need to keep electronic records and update those are required once the child registers at the school. The following years, we shouldn't have to fill in all of the same information again and again. Thank you, Toshi I thought that priority was given to kids in poorly performing schools, but the practical reality is that parents who can make the system work for them get what they want. OUSD already does too much to support charter schools. A combined application is just more effort to steer more kids into charters.

Registration should begin before the following year ends and the packets of forms that are needed each year should be either on line or mailed out before school begins to cut down on some of the confusion.

Bite the bullet and close the school sites we don't need. There are not enough students in the district to support so many sites. Focus on neighborhood assignments.

Neighborhood needs to remain priority. If Oakland moves to all lottery it will destroy my neighborhood. People move here when pregnant with the sole reason of avoiding the ridiculous uncertainty of sf lottery. Anyone with means will be forced to move to the suburbs where there's a reassurance of good elementary schools.

I am really sad that our neighborhood school (Maxwell Park Elementary) became a specialized charter school. The result is that we live two blocks from the school and are surrounded by other families with kids.. but every family's kids are attending a different school. There is no neighborhood school, no carpool, no walking to school. Options gives us a choice and I am grateful for that but I just wish every OUSD elementary school could thrive and excel. As for the questions in the survey, registration needs improvement. So much paperwork and duplication. And miscommunication. (Our school insisted every family has to fill out the school lunch application even if we clearly do not qualify! )

Racial diversity is extremely important to me--in fact, I worry about my son being one of the few students of color at our neighborhood elementary school when he is school-age. But changing the neighborhood school model would be extremely difficult for us given our work schedules and child care arrangements ... and the neighborhood school model was the swing factor in why we chose to buy our house in Rockridge rather than Elmwood. Greater housing integration is difficult in this real estate market and would likely be long-term. That said, I think any OUSD's efforts to improve student of color/ low-income

students' access to top-rated schools should include conversations with the city about how this can be achieved.

My experience with OUSD is at the kindergarten level only. The priorities I listed only apply to elementary school. I think that as you get older, the neighborhood priority as #1 may not be as important. But I do see elementary schools as playing a key role in community building, which is strengthened by drawing from neighborhood. I am also concerned about equity, and not sure how to factor that in as there is a clear correlation between lower income areas and under performing schools.

for us it was mainly about process efficiency and eliminating for us duplicate forms to be filled out, repetitively, each year. That is surely the small stuff--we got in to our first priority, local school which we are happy with (there are a few issues not related to enrollment and information flow more generally as Glenview is being retrofitted and we feel we were in the dark for longer than was probably necessary, but that is not the scope of this survey).

I have heard that some non-Oakland students are receiving placement over Oakland residents at some OUSD schools, particularly at Oakland Tech. This doesn't seem right. The families who live and pay taxes in Oakland and support OUSD schools with time, money, and volunteerism deserve to have their children considered as a priority over non-resident applicants.

I believe you should let the schools register again and hold their OWN wait list since the waitlist system at the enrollment office is Obviously not working.

I appreciate and respect all of the hard work the OUSD is putting into improving and modernizing Oakland schools. Thank you.

I do not believe anything will change, i.e. parents wanting their children to go to specific schools, until the district doesn't make major strides in improving the schools that are inadequate. Certain schools will continue to be the most popular due to knowing the schools' performance and what it has to offer. We will continue to have enrollment problems i.e., schools that are impacted due to popularity until you get your act together and improve all the schools.

Somehow the district needs to find a way to encourage more students from my district (4) to go to public middle school. We are in a negative cycle right now in which families steer away from the public school option because so few of the prior year families have sent their kids to that school and there are so many kids from out of the area. If more families stayed with their neighborhood middle school, then the next year, more families would be inclined to do the same. Maybe the district could consider more K-8 schools...or some formal connection between elementary and middle in the neighborhood? Also, there needs to be a general improvement in the quality of the high school options. Right now there is a perception that Oakland Tech is excellent, but the other schools are not up to par. If this is true, then how can the other schools be improved. If this is not true, how can the perception be changed?

Public High School options are too limited in Oakland. Great work has been done at Oakland Tech, but now it's oversubscribed. Why can't we make similar improvements at other Oakland High Schools? How can we get Charter School mania under control? There has to be a practical limit to the number of charter schools that are allowed, else they will rob the public schools of enough finances and destroy the promise of public education. What can we do to encourage more volunteering at schools? I've helped out with the math program at my local elementary school, but I have not been able to do so at the local middle school because of fears of liability -- students traveling to and from school) -- as well as arguments about equity -- will every student have access to the same program? Does the program serve everyone? How can I as a volunteer serve a school of 750 kids and promise equity for all? In order to make the equality of opportunity fair, the school is denying a chance for volunteers to help students achieve higher marks. We moved to Oakland in June 2014 so the enrollment period had ended. We thought the process to enroll late was fine and my husband did have to go to the district to ask questions from time to time. They ended up putting us in our neighborhood school. We are on a border street between 2 schools

I am for neighborhood schools first but think schools should get more funding or much much better funding. I do not like the idea of charters and feel like they milk standard public schools.

## Number of daily responses

