

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) New Middle School Assignment Plan

### Frequently Asked Questions

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### **1 - Why are we changing the middle school enrollment process?**

In 1968, Berkeley Unified voluntarily integrated all schools. Our commitment to this important and precious legacy continues to be a primary value in our community. The goal of the three zone middle student assignment plan is to ensure that all three Berkeley middle schools reflect the diversity of our community.

## **2 - How will the new plan work?**

The District has been divided into three middle school attendance zones. You can see the zone map middle school [here](#). A specific address look-up will be available by December 1, 2022; the link will be added to the FAQ here when it is available.

Students are assigned to the middle school for the zone they live in, except for Sylvia Mendez students, who are assigned to Longfellow irrespective of where they live.

## **3 - When does the new plan take effect?**

The new plan will take effect with the incoming sixth grade students in the Fall of 2023.

## **4 - When will we get information about middle school enrollment for Fall of 2023?**

The Admissions Office will be mailing middle school enrollment information in December of 2022.

## **5 - Can we visit the middle schools and speak to teachers and the Principal?**

Yes, you can visit the middle school in your attendance zone. Middle school will have information nights in January:

January 11, 2023	Willard	(510)644-6330	Time: 7:00 PM
January 18, 2023	Longfellow	(510)644-6360	Time: 7:00 PM
January 25, 2023	King	(510)644-6280	Time: 7:00 PM

## **6 - If my child is attending King, Longfellow or Willard, do they have to change schools since I am now in a new attendance zone?**

No. Your child can remain in the same middle school for their middle school education.

## **7 - What is the sibling policy?**

Students who are siblings of students currently attending Longfellow, Martin Luther King and Willard will be given priority to be enrolled in the same middle school so that siblings can attend middle school together.

In addition, students who are enrolled in fifth grade in the 2022-23 school year and have an eighth-grade sibling enrolled at King, Longfellow and Willard during the 2022-23 school year will be granted sibling priority if requested. This one-year grace period will only be in effect for the 2023-24 school year.

#### **8 - What if I want my student to attend a school outside the zone we live in?**

After the initial enrollment period, there will be an opportunity to request a transfer to another middle school, which the Admissions Office will accommodate if space is available. Priority will be given to in-zone students, should space not be available, you may place your child on the waiting list.

#### **9 - What if my Sylvia Mendez student does not want to continue in the Two-Way Immersion (TWI) program?**

All Sylvia Mendez students will be assigned to Longfellow. Longfellow TWI students have always had the ability to transfer into the English-Only curriculum at Longfellow, and that will remain an option, in consultation with teachers and administrators at Longfellow. Again, students assigned to any middle school can request a transfer to another middle school, which will be accommodated if space permits.

#### **10 - Will transportation be offered to middle school students?**

Transportation will be provided for students who live 1.5 miles from Longfellow Middle School. The district will provide one express bus that picks up students at designated locations. The details regarding the route of the express bus will be communicated as soon as it is known.

In addition, AC Transit's Student Transit Pass Program (STPP) provides free youth Clipper cards to eligible middle and high school students in Alameda County. We will

disseminate more information to families when we make school assignments in the spring.

**11 - How will the new model serve English Language Learner students who may be best served at King Middle School's newcomer program?**

The ELL newcomer program is a small program at King. If students need to partake of the ELL newcomer program they will continue to do so. There are no plans to change this process.

**12 - Can the superintendent change my student's middle school assignment if I do not like the 3 zone model school policy?**

No. The superintendent needs to ensure that the 3 middle school policy is implemented without giving preferential treatment to some students.

**13 - My child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), will my child IEP be served in my middle school zone?**

Yes, the three middle schools have staff and resources to meet the students' IEP needs.

**14 - My child is attending BUSD on an inter-district permit. Where will my child be assigned for middle school?**

Students who reside in Berkeley have priority to BUSD schools. Inter-district permits students in good standing are normally assigned where middle school spaces are available.

**15 - How will construction scheduled for Longfellow affect students at the school?**

We are excited about our \$30 million investment in the Longfellow school facility. We also have ongoing construction projects at a number of other schools across the district, including major projects at Berkeley High and John Muir Elementary. Construction at

Longfellow is slated to begin in the Fall of 2023 and last through the Fall of 2025, but we do not expect major disruptions to student learning.