

Enrollment Preference Task Force

Meeting #3

January 29, 2014





Choice Bill HB w/HA 1

Create a task force to consider the current landscape of all school enrollment preferences and practices to include magnet, vocational technical and charter schools and to develop recommendations as necessary.

DAG: “[Task force] mission is primarily a collection of policy considerations.” (page 2)

Accomplished by HB90 w/HA 1

- ✓ Easier for parents to navigate the choice process
- ✓ Standardizing application form & deadlines across traditional and charter schools
- ✓ All LEAs accept DOE standard application
- ✓ Parent can submit choice applications on DDOE's website
- ✓ Districts must hold public information session about choice opportunities
- ✓ Required to use the same standards for choice students as they do their attendance zone students
- ✓ Districts must report capacity
- ✓ Creation of this task force

HB90 w/HA1

- **Further seeks to eliminate discrimination by districts against choice students by:**
 - 1) **Allowing districts to request supplemental application information from choice students only to the extent it requires the same information from attendance zone students**
 - 2) **Limiting the supplemental criteria a receiving district may use to evaluate choice applications – after that, district must use a lottery system**
 - 3) **Removing the provision that allows districts to reject applications of students with special needs**

HB90 w/HA1

- **Districts would also be required to accept choice students until each school and/or program has reached 85% of its capacity. District would be required to hold a public information session about choice and enrollment opportunity by October 31 and report estimated capacity and projected enrollment information to the DOE by November 30; those estimates may be revised until January 30.**

Overview of DAG Input

- **Receiving Districts (RE) may require supplemental information in the application data as long as the same information is requested from all students (choice & in-district residents). (page 1)**
- **In reviewing the list of questions submitted, I did not find any current legal requirements that would prohibit the list of questions, tests or auditions presented. (page 2)**

DAG continued

- **Many of the questions appear to be gathering information used for reporting of eligibility for federal or state programs such as homeless status under the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act or migrant status, or identification for English Language Learners.**
(page 3)
- **While it may be advisable as the best practice for a RLEA to have a two step process separating admission and enrollment information, it is not legally mandated.** **(page 4)**

DAG continued

- Each RLEA has the legal responsibility to ensure that they are complying with state and federal law and in doing so they should review their application process and practices carefully to make sure they are consistent with the law and do not have a chilling effect on the enrollment. (page 4)
- While a RLEA may request information, there are certain circumstances where the RLEA must advise whether the disclosure of the information is mandatory or voluntary. (page 4)

DAG continued

- **There is no specific prohibition on asking questions on sports programs prior to enrollment. (page 5)**
- **Each of the categories of schools may have specific acceptance and enrollment criteria to determine admission based on the school programs as long as the criteria used reasonably relates to the school or program. (page 6)**

DAG continued

Magnets:

- ...and is designed to attract students from all parts of a community. (page 6)
- The law requires that each RD, which does not include charter schools or career and technical education schools, to adopt and make available an acceptance or rejection (admission) policy and list out the criteria for acceptance or rejection and setting priorities as required for acceptance. (page 6)

DAG continued

Magnets:

- The law contemplates and permits admission policies that are individually tailored to the specific purpose and programs of the school as long as the policy is “reasonably related to the nature of the program or school for which the application is submitted”. (page 7)
- Thus, if a magnet school is part of a RD, they may require auditions or tests to all applicants as long as the requirement is “reasonably related to the nature of the program or school”. (page 7)

DAG continued

Charter:

- A charter school may have some admission or enrollment criteria to determine whether a student meets the stated preferences as incorporated in the school's charter. (page 8)
- For example, questions regarding the student's interests or what ways the school will serve the student, auditions, or testing may be the school's process used to determine student's specific interests in the school's methods, philosophy or educational focus, or whether a student is a risk for academic failure, as long as the information is uniform to all applicants and is not used for an impermissible purpose. (page 8)

DAAG continued

Career and technical:

- Career and technical schools are governed by the vocational-technical school board in each vocational-technical district.....with the authority to determine policy and adopt rules and regulations for the general administration and supervision of the vo-tech schools within their district. (page 9)

DAG continued

Career and technical:

- Although a vo-tech school is required to accept the general application, they are currently permitted to require supplemental information. (page 9)

DAG continued

In conclusion: (page 9 & 10)

- **At the heart of the Task Force's mission is to consider all aspects of the application & enrollment process and purpose from both the applicants' and the schools' perspectives and needs, and weigh the policy considerations and formulate recommendations based on the outcome.**

DAG continued

If pursued through successful legislation, those recommendations would then become legally binding restrictions.

***the above 15 PP slides are direct quotes from the original documents**