



Cluster Program Offer FAQ's

How was my child's school assignment determined?

- When a student's current or neighborhood school cannot implement the student's IEP based on the IEP placement recommendation, a request for a school assignment is completed. The Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS) references IDEA Section 300.116 when determining a school assignment for a child.
- Factors used to determine a school assignment for a child:
 1. The school's ability to implement your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 2. The school that is closest to your child's home; and
 3. The number of available seats in a school that can provide the support and services documented in the IEP.

If my child receives a cluster assignment, then are they also included on the waitlist?

- Waitlists have been determined based on the results of the 9th-grade lottery.
- If your child has been added to a cluster classroom waitlist and a seat becomes available, you will be contacted by a representative from the ODLSS School Assignment Team to extend the waitlist offer.
- If you have questions regarding your child's assignment, then please contact the ODLSS School Assignment Team at (773) 553-1847 or by email at cpscluster@cps.edu.

If my child receives a cluster assignment, then can we enroll at our zoned neighborhood school?

- Based on your child's IEP and offer of FAPE, your child has been provided an assignment to a cluster classroom.
- Your neighborhood school may not have a cluster classroom. If your neighborhood school does offer a cluster classroom, then it may be full for next school year.
- You should enroll your child in their assigned school or contact the ODLSS School Assignment Team at (773) 553-1847 or by email at cpscluster@cps.edu.

If I have questions or concerns about my child's cluster placement, then who should I contact?

- You may contact the ODLSS School Assignment Team at (773) 553-1847 or by email at cpscluster@cps.edu.

If my child received an assignment from the ODLSS School Assignment Team/GoCPS offer, then what steps took place during that process?

- The team at your child's current school developed and finalized your child's IEP.
- At that meeting, it was determined that your child requires the support of a moderate or intensive cluster classroom for the 9th grade.
- The school team submitted an assignment request to ODLSS for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Based on the choices that your family made on the GoCPS application, your child was entered into the cluster lottery in order to provide a school assignment/offer for the 9th grade.
- The lottery is run in the order of the choices that were submitted. *For example: If your child received an assignment at a school that was your family's 3rd choice, then your child was added to the waitlist for choices one and two.*

If I want to decline or accept the offer, then what are my next steps?

- At this time, other than having your child on a waitlist for another cluster seat for the 2024-2025 school year, the offer that has been provided to you will stand unless a seat becomes available via the waitlist.
- The ODLSS School Assignment Team can only provide school assignments to schools that offer available seats.
- The lottery took into account the available seats and your family's school choices listed in GoCPS.
- Based on your child's IEP and offer of a free appropriate public education (FAPE), your child has been provided an assignment to a cluster classroom.
- Your neighborhood school may not have a cluster classroom. If your neighborhood school does offer a cluster classroom, then it may be full for next school year.
- You should enroll your child in their assigned school or contact the ODLSS School Assignment Team at (773) 553-1847 or by email at cpscluster@cps.edu.