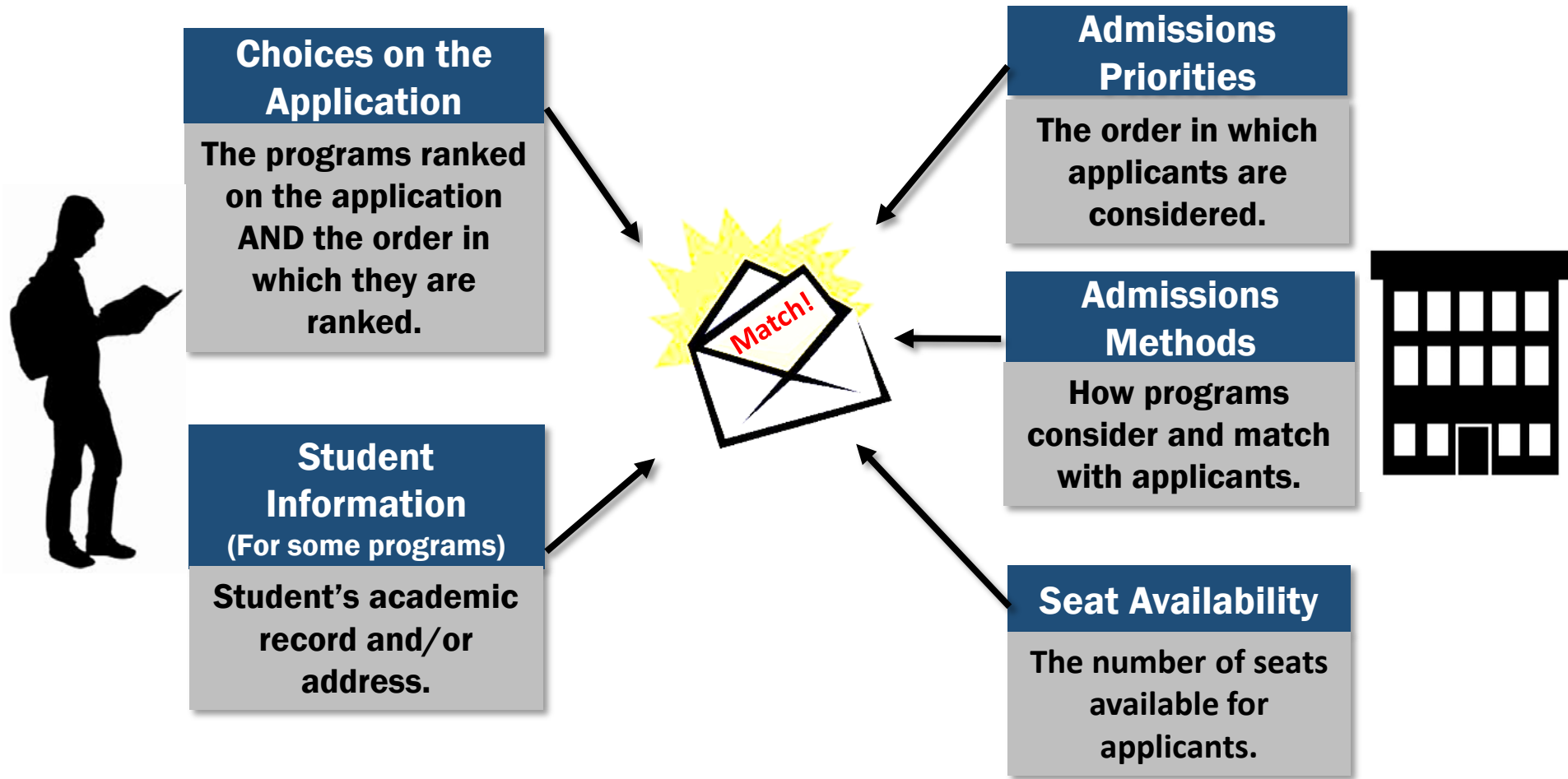



**District 3 Middle School
Admissions
December 13, 2017**

How do students apply to middle school?



How does the process work in District 3?

Currently in District 3, when students submit an application, screened middle schools are able to see how a family ranked the school on their application. This is called revealed ranking.



SCHOOL RANK	STUDENT RANK	PRIORITY GROUP	OSIS ID	STUDENT FIRST NAME	STUDENT LAST NAME	GENDER	MIDDLE SCHOOL ZC	SENDING SCHOOL L	ELL	SE FLAG	SMS GROUP	TALENT SCORE	ALTERNATE ELA TES	ELA SCORE	ELA LEVEL	ELA PROFICIENCY R	ALTERNATE MATH T	MATH SCORE	MATH LEVEL	MATH PROFICIENCY			
<input type="text"/>	1	1					03M970	03M163		NO	GE		N	367	4	4.16	N	362	4	4.18			
<input type="text"/>	1	1					03M971	03M333		NO	GE				N	331	3	3.48	N	343	4	4.02	
<input type="text"/>	5	1					03M970	03M163		NO	GE				N	320	3	3.00	N	356	4	4.13	
<input type="text"/>	2	1					03M971	03M009		NO	GE				N	338	3	3.78	N	351	4	4.09	
<input type="text"/>	2	1					03M970	03M165		NO	GE				N	320	3	3.00	N	302	2	2.61	
<input type="text"/>	1	1					03M971	03M087		NO	GE				N					N			
<input type="text"/>	5	1					03M970	84M329		NO	GE				N	308	2	2.64	N	257	1	1.83	
<input type="text"/>	1	1					03M971	03M087		YES	ICT				N	302	2	2.45	N	290	2	2.23	

How does revealed ranking affect the process?

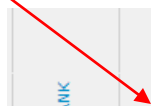
- Revealed ranking disadvantages families with less access to time and information which undermines diversity. We often hear from families who did not know about this aspect of the process.
- Some screened schools use revealed ranking to decide which students to select for admission.
- These schools tell families that they will not consider applicants who do not rank them in a certain range – usually first or second.
- This requires families to be “strategic” about their choices rather than honest.
- We frequently hear from District 3 families that they feel like they only have one or two real options because schools won’t look at them if they rank them lower on the application.

How does revealed ranking affect the process?

- District 3 families currently apply to screened schools that have blind ranking. This added layer is confusing for families and schools
- Examples include: Columbia Secondary, Anderson, Professional Performing Arts School, Nest+m, Manhattan East and Institute for Collaborative Education.

How would blind ranking change the process?

For middle schools, the information they see about students remains the same except for the one column which will be removed—the student rank column. This is called blind ranking.



SCHOOL RANK	STUDENT RANK	PRIORITY GROUP	OSIS ID	STUDENT FIRST NAME	STUDENT LAST NAME	GENDER	MIDDLE SCHOOL ZONE	SENDING SCHOOL DBN	ELL	SE FLAG	SMS GROUP	TALENT SCORE	ALTERNATE ELA TEST Y	ELA SCORE	ELA LEVEL	ELA PROFICIENCY RATIO	ALTERNATE MATH TEST	MATH SCORE	MATH LEVEL	MATH PROFICIENCY RATIO
<input type="text"/>		1					15K980	15K172		NO	GE		N	338	3	3.78	N	341	4	4.00
<input type="text"/>		1					17K061	15K032		NO	GE		N	338	3	3.78	N	319	3	3.19
<input type="text"/>		1					15K980	15K029		NO	GE		N	320	3	3.00	N	325	3	3.41
<input type="text"/>		1					15K980	15K261		NO	GE		N				N			
<input type="text"/>		1					15K980	13K133		NO	GE		N				N			
<input type="text"/>		1					15K980	15K058		NO	GE		N				N	347	4	4.05
<input type="text"/>		1					15K980	15K172		NO	GE		N	356	4	4.09	N	370	4	4.25
<input type="text"/>		1					20K972	15K130		YES	ICT		N	295	2	2.24	N	275	1	1.95
<input type="text"/>		1					13K970	15K146		NO	GE		N				N			
<input type="text"/>		1					17K246	15K261		NO	GE		N	327	3	3.30	N	308	2	2.81
<input type="text"/>		1					22K078	15K261		NO	GE		N				N			
<input type="text"/>		1					17K061	15K146		NO	GE		N	311	2	2.73	N	284	2	2.03
<input type="text"/>		1					23K971	15K261		YES	ICT		N				N			

How would blind ranking change the process?

- Blind ranking reduces barriers in the admissions process and promotes equal access for families.
- For families, blind ranking allows them to rank schools in true order of preference.
- For schools, blind ranking means that the applicants who have ranked the school first have done so because they genuinely want to attend – not because they had to in order to be considered at all.
- For the district, blind ranking means that families can and will consider more schools because there is no “penalty” for being honest about their preferences.

What does not change with blind ranking?

- Families continue to rank schools on their application and students will be placed in the highest ranked school to accept them.
- Screened schools continue to have access to applicants' academic information and use it to evaluate students for admission.
- Students receive one offer for middle school on the same timeline as in previous years.

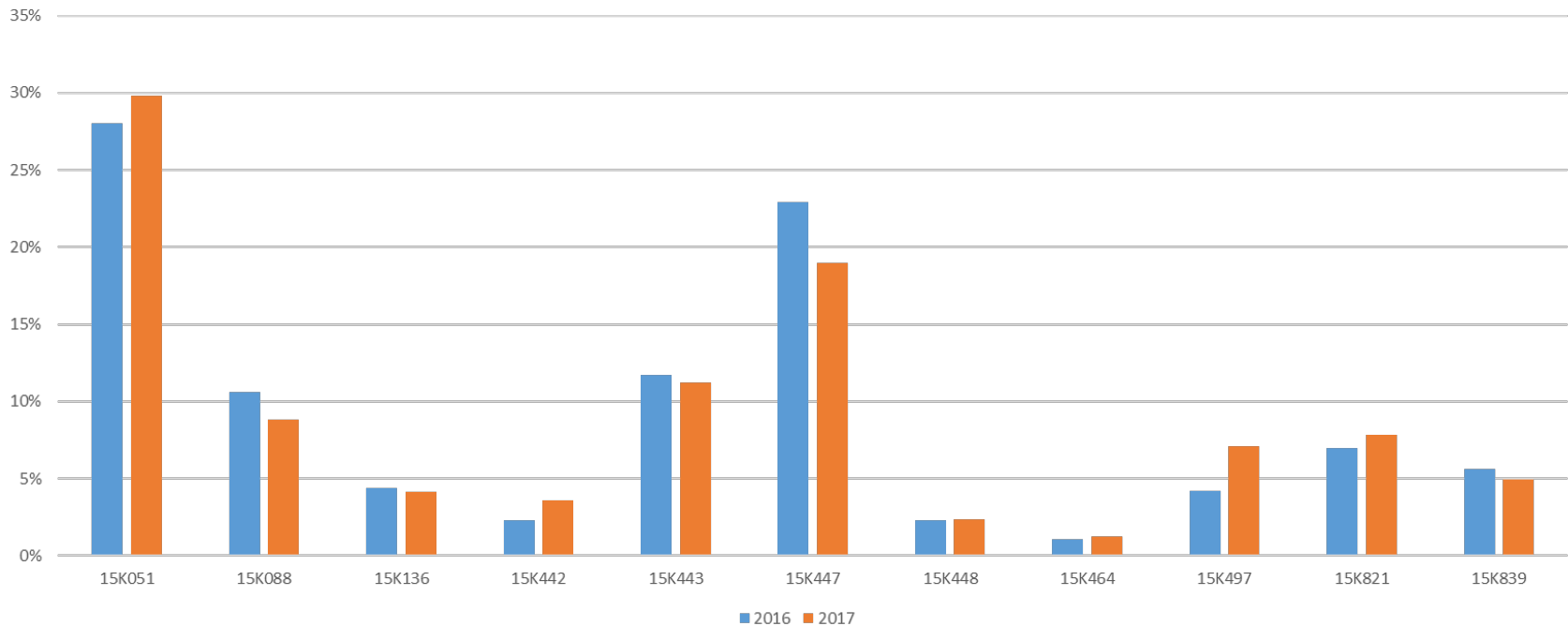
How has a change to blind ranking worked in other districts?

- District 15 adopted blind ranking in the previous admissions cycle.
- Students were matched to slightly wider range of choices.
- Families were free to express their true preference order. In some cases, this meant that families decided to “reach” for schools they would not have in the past.
- Many schools had a larger applicant pool.
- After the first year, we see some reduction in the concentration of racial/ethnic groups at middle school.

What program did families list as their first choice in District 15?

We saw increases in the first choice applicants to schools that had not required students to make them their first choice.

Percent of all first-choice applications, by school



New tools available in the admissions process

- Schools can opt to develop a pilot plan for diversifying their student body.
- Some examples are prioritizing based on:
 - Geographic diversity
 - Income diversity
 - Academic diversity
- These proposals are accepted on a rolling basis; all schools are encouraged to apply.