



October 17, 2016

Dear Parents,

After extensive discussions with school leaders and thorough reviews of our practices and data, the district has made a small number of minor revisions to the rules governing the magnet school admission processes described in regulation 2206-R2. The improvements to the process go into effect this selection year—meaning the changes affect students applying this winter to attend Booker T. Washington High School next year.

The improvements to the regulation:

- support greater transparency, consistency and clarity in the admissions process,
- align regulation language with current practices,
- distribute our resources more equitably and fairly, and
- promote employee retention and recruitment when appropriate and feasible.

While the majority of the revisions simply make the process more transparent and clear, there is one substantive change, and it pertains to applicants living outside of Tulsa Public School's boundaries. Specifically, the regulation now clarifies that out-of-district applicants will be admitted only through the more restricted "5% principal discretion" route. This means that out-of-district applicants may not participate in the magnet school's admission selection process. Instead, out-of-district applicants may be admitted only if the principal has enough seats remaining from the small number of seats reserved for the principal to fill at his or her discretion. Out-of-district applicants may be admitted through the principal discretion process only if they meet the minimum qualification criteria and only after the principal has used the discretionary slots to admit any remaining qualified in-district or out-of-district applicants who are the dependents of Tulsa Public Schools employees and any other qualified in-district students. Qualified out-of-district students not admitted through the principal discretion process will be placed at the end of the school's waiting list after any qualified in-district students.

It is important to clarify that out-of-district students currently attending BTW may continue to attend our school—the modification only applies to magnet school applicants. Further, for this year only, the restriction on out-of-district applicants will not apply to students currently enrolled in the last year of a magnet school that has progressive (preferred) enrollment to another magnet school. That means that for this year only, the out-of-district restriction does not apply to *Carver* 8th graders applying to Booker T. Washington High School.

If you live out of district, we know that this change may be concerning. The district regrets that it cannot provide a seat to all qualified magnet school applicants; but there are limited seats, and the process must prioritize the admission of qualified in-district students.

The revised regulation (2206-R2) is found in the district's policy manual, which is available on the district's website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jill Blackwelder, TPS's Coordinator for Transfers, at 918-746-6138 or blackji@tulsaschools.org.

Thank you,

Sharon Lazdins
Assistant Principal