2019 ROUND 1
SCHOOL CHOICE
Participation and Match Results
THE DENVER PLAN 2020

GOAL #1
Great Schools in Every Neighborhood

GOAL #2
A Foundation for Success in School

GOAL #3
Ready for College and Career

GOAL #4
Support for the Whole Child

GOAL #5
Close the Opportunity Gap
THE DENVER PLAN 2020

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Support for the Whole Child

GOAL #5
Close the Opportunity Gap
Participation (Demand)

1. The demand of students in choice

Offer (Supply)

2. The supply of seats in choice

Match and Family Satisfaction

3. The connection of fulfilling our students’ choices
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights of Round 1 choice

- **Participation:** Reached a record number: 27,119, the highest since unified enrollment launched in 2012. Participation rates for students in transition were 89% for kindergarten, 84% for grade 6, 76% for grade 9, and 83% across all these three transition grades.

- **Offer:** High quality seats are being filled at a high rate, with 89% of blue/green seats filled versus 72% of orange/red seats. However, about 800 students applying to a Blue/Green 1st choice in transition grades were not assigned to a Blue/Green school.

- **Match and Family Satisfaction:** First choice match rates were level or slightly higher than 2018 at all levels.
  - 81% of kindergarteners were placed in their first choice (+1.0% vs. 2018)
  - 83% of sixth graders received their first choice (identical to 2018)
  - 85% of ninth graders were enrolled in their first choice (+5.0% vs. 2018)
  - 83% of English speaking respondents and 94% of Spanish speaking respondents reported a positive experience with SchoolChoice in a satisfaction survey.
KEY CHANGES FOR 2019 TO INCREASE EQUITY OF ACCESS
Continuous improvement built on past successes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar</th>
<th>New Southwest Office</th>
<th>Call Center</th>
<th>FRL Pilot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ In 2018 we heard the feedback that releasing results in late April is challenging for families and schools.</td>
<td>▪ A new enrollment office was opened in December to serve families in central and south Denver. ▪ The new office received 300 walk in families during Round 1 of Choice.</td>
<td>▪ A dedicated call center was opened in the new Southwest Enrollment center. ▪ With software provided by DoTS, the call center efficiently managed nearly 6,400 calls during Round 1 and nearly 14,000 in 2019.</td>
<td>▪ The FRL pilot was expanded from 22 to 35 schools. ▪ 1,091 students were accepted under the priority from the FRL pilot.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OVERVIEW OF ANALYSIS

Participation
(Demand)

Offer

Match and
Family
Satisfaction

1. The demand of students in choice
2. The supply of seats in choice
3. The connection of fulfilling our students’ choices
OVERVIEW OF ANALYSIS

Key Points

School Choice participation rates for Denver-resident transition students continue to be strong:

- 89% participation for kindergarten
- 84% for grade 6
- 76% for grade 9

The demand of students in choice
ROUND 1 PARTICIPANTS BY YEAR

The number of participants remained flat when compared with last year, when the new system was implemented.

- 17 additional participants than 2018 (+0.1%) across all grades, ECE-12.
- Between 2017 and 2018 the increase was of roughly 4k participants (+17%) across ECE-12.
ROUND 1 PARTICIPATION RATE

Participation rates for transition students applying to kindergarten, 6th or 9th grades were about the same than last year.

- There was a small increased in Kinder. However, participation in Kinder is limited to known ECE4 students or students who pre-registered.
Participation rates in enrollment zones are higher as students need to participate to get assigned, as there is not a boundary school to assign by default.

- In the case on boundaries, some families may exercise their choice by not participating, if they want to be assigned to their boundary school. Others may still list their boundary school as 1st choice.

- For enrollment zones, the Choice Enrollment Office tracks students in transition and contact families if they have not participated in Round 1.
In boundaries with high participation rates like Asbury, Bradley, U Park, Steele, Cory, Slavens, Steck, about 58% of the participants overall chose their boundary school as 1st choice.
ROUND 1 PARTICIPATION RATES - 6TH
Enrollment zones have high participation, but there are gaps among them (e.g., GPHS MS vs. Southwest MS shows a 13 p.p. gap)
Northfield boundary has the highest participation, with many choosing into East or GW, but also 50% chose Northfield as 1st choice. Similarly, 70% of the participants at East boundary chose East as their 1st choice.

In contrast, only 7% of those participating at Manual boundary chose Manual as their 1st choice.

**GOAL #1 Great Schools in Every Neighborhood**
ROUND 1 PARTICIPATION RATES– FRL VS. NON FRL

There is a participation gap of 9 p.p. between FRL and non-FRL students for transition grades. This gap is slightly higher for 9th grade and lower for 6th grade.

- The gap in participation was reduced from 12 p.p. in 2018.
- MS (6th grade) have the most enrollment zones, followed by ES (Kinder).

GOAL #1 Great Schools in Every Neighborhood
ROUND 1 PARTICIPATION RATES— FRL VS. NON FRL, ENROLLMENT ZONES

There is a smaller participation gap of 6 p.p. between FRL and non-FRL students for transition grades in enrollment zones. The largest gap is in 6th grade.

- The gap in participation for enrollment zones was reduced from 9 p.p. in 2018.

* Gaps for each Enrollment Zone can be found in the appendix.

GOAL #1 Great Schools in Every Neighborhood
OVERVIEW OF ANALYSIS

1. The demand of students in choice
2. The supply of seats in choice
3. The connection of fulfilling our students’ choices
OVERVIEW OF ANALYSIS

Key Points

High quality seats are being filled at a higher rate

- 89% of the Blue/Green SPF rating seats were filled versus 72% of the Orange/Red seats.

However, we still do not have enough high quality seats:

- About 800 students applying to a Blue/Green 1st choice in transition grades were not assigned to a Blue/Green school.
Percentage Of Seats Filled By SPF

89% of the Blue/Green seats were filled versus 72% of the Orange/Red transition seats in grades K, 6 and 9.

Without School Choice, on average, each SPF would be 83% full. However, blue and green seats are utilized at a 89% rate.

- This equates to shifting additional students in transition grades to higher-performing schools than they would have otherwise attended, with those students matriculating forward (equivalent to close to 2.5k students across all K-12 grades).

Note that in 2018-19, none of the large-comprehensive district high schools were blue or green. Popular large schools like East or Northfield were yellow, increasing the utilization of yellow seats.

Schools with no rating include: 5280, KIPP Sunshine ES, and RMP Berkeley, all these with utilization below 50%.

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*Seat filled by ANY student. Placeholders not included in capacity or utilized seats.

** Based on 2018-19 SPF
There were ~800 students who listed a high-performing school #1 for K/6/9 grades but were not assigned to Green/Blue.

Overall, there are more seats than applicants, but while 46% of first choices are SPF Blue/Green, only 36% of the seats in transition grades are. The overall number of Blue/Green seats is slightly smaller than the number of Blue/Green 1st choices. Some of these seats will go to non-participants in boundaries. In addition, preference and geographic limitations decrease the number of fulfilled Blue/Green 1st choices.

*Based on 2017-18 SPF. Seat availability and 1st choice complete distribution by SPF is available in the Appendix. Includes non-participants who enroll in boundary schools.
OVERVIEW OF ANALYSIS

1. The **demand** of students in choice
2. The **supply** of seats in choice
3. The connection of **fulfilling** our students’ choices
OVERVIEW OF ANALYSIS

Match and Family Satisfaction

The connection of fulfilling our students’ choices

Key Points

The rates at which students were enrolled in their first choice of schools:

- **81%** of kindergarteners placed in their first choice (+1 p.p. vs. 2018)
- **83%** of sixth graders received their first choice (+0 p.p. vs. 2018)
- **85%** of ninth graders enrolled in their first choice (+5 p.p. vs. 2018)
83% of participating Denver residents received their top choice school in transition grades K, 6 and 9.

**First Choice Match Rate for Participant Transition Students**

- Match rates for first choice remained flat for 6th grade and a little higher for Kinder versus last year. However, first choice match rate for 9th grade increased about 5 percent points.

- The 5 p.p. increase in High School was driven mainly by preferences leveling out across schools.
  - East HS had ~100 fewer 1st choices than last year (a drop of 13%), and a waitlist that dropped from 226 to 112.
  - On the other hand, North and South increased the number of 1st choices by 160 across the two of them (more than a 25% increase).
  - Northfield also increased their number of 1st choices by ~130 (+36%), but they also increased their seat offers, so their waitlist only increased by 16 (+8%).
**MATCH RATES WITHIN A ZONE: KINDER**

90% of enrollment zone participant students in transition were placed in their top school in the zone (or better) for kindergarten.

### 2019 Round 1 Results by In-Zone (Or Better) Preference Selection for Transition Enrollment Zone Participants, Kinder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment Zone</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>1st or 2nd Choice</th>
<th>1st - 3rd Choice</th>
<th>1st - 4th Choice</th>
<th>Any Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Far Southeast</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater 5 Points</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stapleton</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Enrollment Zones</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Swigert ES and High Tech ES have relatively long waitlists for in-zone students in the Stapleton ES. Holm had a small waitlist for in-zone students this year in Southeast ES.

*Calculations explained in the Appendix*
Match rates within a zone: 6th grade

93% of enrollment zone participant students in transition were placed in their top school in the zone (or better) for 6th grade.

2019 Round 1 Results by In-Zone (Or Better) Preference Selection for Transition Enrollment Zone Participants, 6th Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment Zone</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>1st or 2nd Choice</th>
<th>1st-3rd Choice</th>
<th>1st-4th Choice</th>
<th>Any Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Far Northeast MS</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Park Hill MS</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake MS</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West MS</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest MS</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest MS</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNE MS</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MS Enrollment Zones: 93% 98% 99% 99% 99%

- Match rates for FNE MS zone improved when DSST: Noel MS opened, but still relatively low. In the West MS zone, KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy has a relatively long waitlist for in-zone students.

Stoplights:
- More than 95% of zone residents got their first choice.
- At least 90% of zone residents got their first choice or at least 95% got their first or second choice.
- Less than 90% of zone residents got their first choice and less than 95% of zone residents received their second choice.

* Calculations explained in the Appendix
**MATCH RATES WITHIN A ZONE: 9TH GRADE**

77% of enrollment zone participant students in transition were placed in their top school in the zone (or better) for 9th grade.

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**2019 Round 1 Results by In-Zone (Or Better) Preference Selection for Transition Enrollment Zone Participants, 9th Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment Zone</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>1st or 2nd Choice</th>
<th>1st - 3rd Choice</th>
<th>1st - 4th Choice</th>
<th>Any Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Far Northeast HS</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West HS</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Enrollment Zones</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Match rates for FNE HS zone are considerably lower than other enrollment zones. Waitlist for in-zone students are found at DSST:GVR HS, Strive Prep-RISE, and KIPP NE DLA.

Stoplights

- Green: More than 95% of zone residents got their first choice.
- Orange: At least 90% of zone residents got their first choice or at least 95% got their first or second choice.
- Red: Less than 90% of zone residents got their first choice and less than 95% of zone residents received their second choice.

* Calculations explained in the Appendix
13% of families responded to the Round 1 survey this year versus 7% of families who responded last year.

Survey Responses by Year

- Some families have changed their phone numbers or emails and would not have received the survey
- Families with multiple siblings who participated in Choice may have only filled out one survey
- Different parents/guardians for the same family could have filled out the survey
- Families were able to choose to complete the survey in English or in Spanish
Rates were similar across regions, though Southwest had the lowest participation rate.
84% of responding families had a favorable experience participating in Round 1 of SchoolChoice.

What was your overall impression of the entire SchoolChoice process from researching your school options to filling out and submitting the online application?

- Responses of Excellent or Good were grouped as favorable responses
- Responses of Fair or Poor were grouped as unfavorable
Parent satisfaction was similar this year compared to last year.

Overall Parent Satisfaction with the Round 1 Application Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responded in English</th>
<th>Responded in Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responded in English
Responded in Spanish

2018-19  2019-20
77% of respondents completed the SchoolChoice application without any school or Choice staff support.

What help did you receive in submitting your application?

Parent Responses

- I completed it on my own
- With support from SchoolChoice staff at an enrollment center
- With support from SchoolChoice staff at an event
- With support from SchoolChoice staff over the phone
- With support from staff at a school
- Other (multiple responses)

Bar chart showing the percentage of responses for each category.
Next Steps for School Choice

- Shift identification of low income students under the pilot program from FRL to students residing in census tracts with certain characteristics. Approach used by Chicago, San Antonio and others. Permits a more holistic view, reduces risk of undercounting and solves data privacy challenges.

- Deep analysis of enrollment zones to understand characteristics of successful zones and recommend refinements to bolster that success.

- Focus on research and outreach to better understand and continue to narrow the participation gap between FRL and non-FRL families.
APPENDIX

- Definitions
- Match rates within a zone explained
- Number of participants by grade, YOY
- Seat availability vs. choice by SPF, % distribution
- Round 1 participation rates for transition grades by Enrollment Zone
- Parent Satisfaction Survey comments
DEFINITIONS

- **Participant:** A student who submitted a choice form. An “Enrollment Zone Participant” is a zone resident who selected at least one school choice within his or her enrollment zone.

- **Transition student:** A transition student is a student who does not roll automatically to the next grade in his or her current school or any other school. Most commonly, they are applying to grades K, 6 or 9. (ECE-4 applicants usually do not automatically roll from ECE-3, but they are not K-12).

- **Transition participant:** A transition student who submitted a choice form.

- **Participation rate:** Calculated by dividing the number of students in transition grades who submitted a choice form by the total number of students who do not roll automatically to the next grade in any school. Transition grades are K, 6 and 9
  
  - Identifying kindergarten non-participants is challenging because DPS only has line of sight to students who are currently enrolled in an ECE program in DPS to serve as the denominator for this calculation. In contrast, 6th- and 9th-grade rates are easier due to students being in DPS already for 5th and 8th grades.

- **Match rate:** Percentage of applicants (usually referring to transition students) who received their X preferred choice. 1st choice match rate is the percentage who received their 1st choice; 1st and 2nd choice match rate is the percentage who received their 1st or 2nd choice; etc.

- **Within-zone 1st choice placement rate:** The percentage of times an enrollment zone student (usually referring to transition students) received his or her first choice, when this choice was within the zone.
MATCH RATES WITHIN A ZONE

For students in enrollment zones, we could measure a match rate with their preferred school choices WITHIN THEIR ZONE

- The universe (denominator) would be an enrollment zone resident who chose a zone school for any choice, i.e., enrollment zone participants.
- They could be assigned to schools outside their enrollment zone ONLY if it was a better choice to other school in their zone.
  - First zone choice or better = students who got into the best choice that was a zone school *or* something they preferred.
- Example: Joey lives in Stapleton and he made the following choices (in zone choice in blue)
  - Choice 1: DSA
  - Choice 2: McAuliffe ← Best in-zone choice
  - Choice 3: DCIS
  - Choice 4: Bill Roberts ← Second best in-zone choice
  - Choice 5: Skinner

  **OUTCOME #1:** If he gets into DSA or McAuliffe, we would say he got into his first zone choice or better.

  **OUTCOME #2:** If he gets into DCIS or Roberts, we say he got into his second zone choice or better.

  **OUTCOME #3:** If he gets into Skinner, we say he got into something better than his third zone choice (because presumably, he liked Skinner better than any other school in his zone and his third zone choice would have come after Skinner).

  **OUTCOME #4:** If he gets defaulted to the zone, we say he didn’t get any of his choices.
ROUND 1 PARTICIPATION BY GRADE
There were not strong variations in the number of participants even when breaking down by grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Participants 2018</th>
<th>Participants 2019</th>
<th>Year Over Year Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>5260</td>
<td>5162</td>
<td>-98</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>5507</td>
<td>5419</td>
<td>-88</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1241</td>
<td>1311</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>-58</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>5614</td>
<td>5678</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>4137</td>
<td>4322</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27,102</td>
<td>27,119</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While 46% of first choices are SPF Blue/Green, only 36% of the seats in transition grades are, a gap of 10 p.p.

*Based on 2017-18 SPF.*
When looking at the enrollment zone level, participation gaps between FRL and Non FRL students range between a higher participation by FRL students (SE, Gateway, SW) to up to 13 p.p. gap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>FRL</th>
<th>Non FRL</th>
<th>Gap p.p.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Far Southeast Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gtr. 5 Points Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stapleton Elementary Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far Northeast Middle School Zone</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Park Hill Stapleton Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Middle School Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Middle School Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Middle School Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Middle School Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>NNE Middle School Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th Grade</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West HS Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNE HS Enrollment Zone</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Grade</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Transition Grades</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parent Comments

- “Todo muy facil”
- “The online portion was easy to access and I appreciate that the information from last year was saved, which made the process so easy this year.”
- “Me ayudaron hacerlo por teléfono y muy amable y explico todo bien“
- “We have participated in this process for numerous years now, and we truly appreciate the supports and efforts put forth by the entire DPS team to ensure students have opportunities to find the best fit for their academic success! Many thanks to all for the continued time, energy, and attention to support this process!”
- “Me pareció muy fácil hacer la aplicación en línea, es muy sencillo usar la app.”