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January 18, 2013

Dear Families,

We are writing to you today because you are the parent/guardian of a child who will be between the ages of 3-5 next September. As a parent of a child who is near the age to start school, your opinion on the school assignment process really matters!

Please share your feedback using the brief survey that starts on the back of this letter. Controlled Choice is the method Cambridge uses to assign students to our public schools. Your answers will help us make Controlled Choice better.

This survey is being conducted by the Cambridge School Committee as part of a major review of the Controlled Choice Policy. Participation in this survey is voluntary, and your responses will remain anonymous. No identifying information will be collected. If you have questions about this survey, please contact the Cambridge School Committee office at 617.349.6620.

We know that some families receiving this may be in the process of registering a child for Kindergarten or Tobin Montessori. Please be sure to complete your registration at the Family Resource Center by January 31 in order to participate in the January Kindergarten Lottery. This survey is completely separate from that process.

Your ideas are very important to us. If you choose to participate, please return your survey using the enclosed envelope by January 31, 2013.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Fred Fantini & Alice Turkel

Co-Chairs of the Controlled Choice Sub-Committee of the Whole
Cambridge School Committee

Controlled Choice Opinion Survey

The Cambridge Public School Department is seeking your input into our current method for assigning students to school, called "Controlled Choice."

1. The goal of the Controlled Choice plan is to have students experience the benefits of diversity, by maintaining similar percentages of students qualifying for the Federal Free & Reduced Price Meals Program in each school. To what extent do you agree with this goal?
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

2. To what extent do you believe the Controlled Choice student assignment method is fair?
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree I would need more information about Controlled Choice to answer this question

3. To what extent are you confident that your child will be assigned to a school you will find acceptable, under Controlled Choice?
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree I would need more information about Controlled Choice to answer this question

4. Cambridge holds a Kindergarten Lottery every year in January. Parents write down three school choices on their registration form.
 - a. How likely are you to enroll your children in the Cambridge Public Schools if you receive your 1st choice school for your child in the January Kindergarten Lottery?
 Definitely Likely Not Likely Definitely Not

 - b. How likely are you to enroll your children in the Cambridge Public Schools if you receive your 2nd choice school for your child in the January Kindergarten Lottery?
 Definitely Likely Not Likely Definitely Not

 - c. How likely are you to enroll your children in the Cambridge Public Schools if you receive your 3rd choice school for your child in the January Kindergarten Lottery?
 Definitely Likely Not Likely Definitely Not

 - d. How likely are you to enroll your children in the Cambridge Public Schools if you did not receive any of your three school choices and your child was assigned to a school you did not choose?
 Definitely Likely Not Likely Definitely Not

 - e. Would your decision depend upon whether your child is accepted to a private, parochial/faith-based, or charter school?
 Definitely Likely Not Likely I do no plan on applying to private, parochial/faith-based, or charter schools

5. Which of the following school models would motivate you to send your child to a school building that was not near your home or neighborhood? *Please check all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Montessori School	<input type="checkbox"/> Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math School
<input type="checkbox"/> International Baccalaureate School	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual/Performing Arts School
<input type="checkbox"/> Intensive Music School	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Elementary School
<input type="checkbox"/> French Immersion School	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Program: _____

6. Would you prefer to send your child to a school near your home? Yes No

7. What start time would you prefer for your child? 8:55 am 8:25 am 7:55 am

(Continued on the Next Page)

8. Given your current knowledge of the schools in Cambridge please check all the schools you believe you would be happy to have your child attend:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amigos (Spanish Immersion) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baldwin | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Immersion Program at Martin Luther King |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cambridgeport | <input type="checkbox"/> King Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fletcher-Maynard | <input type="checkbox"/> King Open Olá Program (Portuguese Immersion) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graham and Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Morse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haggerty | <input type="checkbox"/> Peabody |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kennedy-Longfellow | <input type="checkbox"/> Tobin Montessori |

9. Given your current knowledge of the schools in Cambridge please check all the schools you believe you would **NOT** be happy to have your child attend:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amigos (Spanish Immersion) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baldwin | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Immersion Program at Martin Luther King |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cambridgeport | <input type="checkbox"/> King Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fletcher-Maynard | <input type="checkbox"/> King Open Olá Program (Portuguese Immersion) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graham and Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Morse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haggerty | <input type="checkbox"/> Peabody |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kennedy-Longfellow | <input type="checkbox"/> Tobin Montessori |

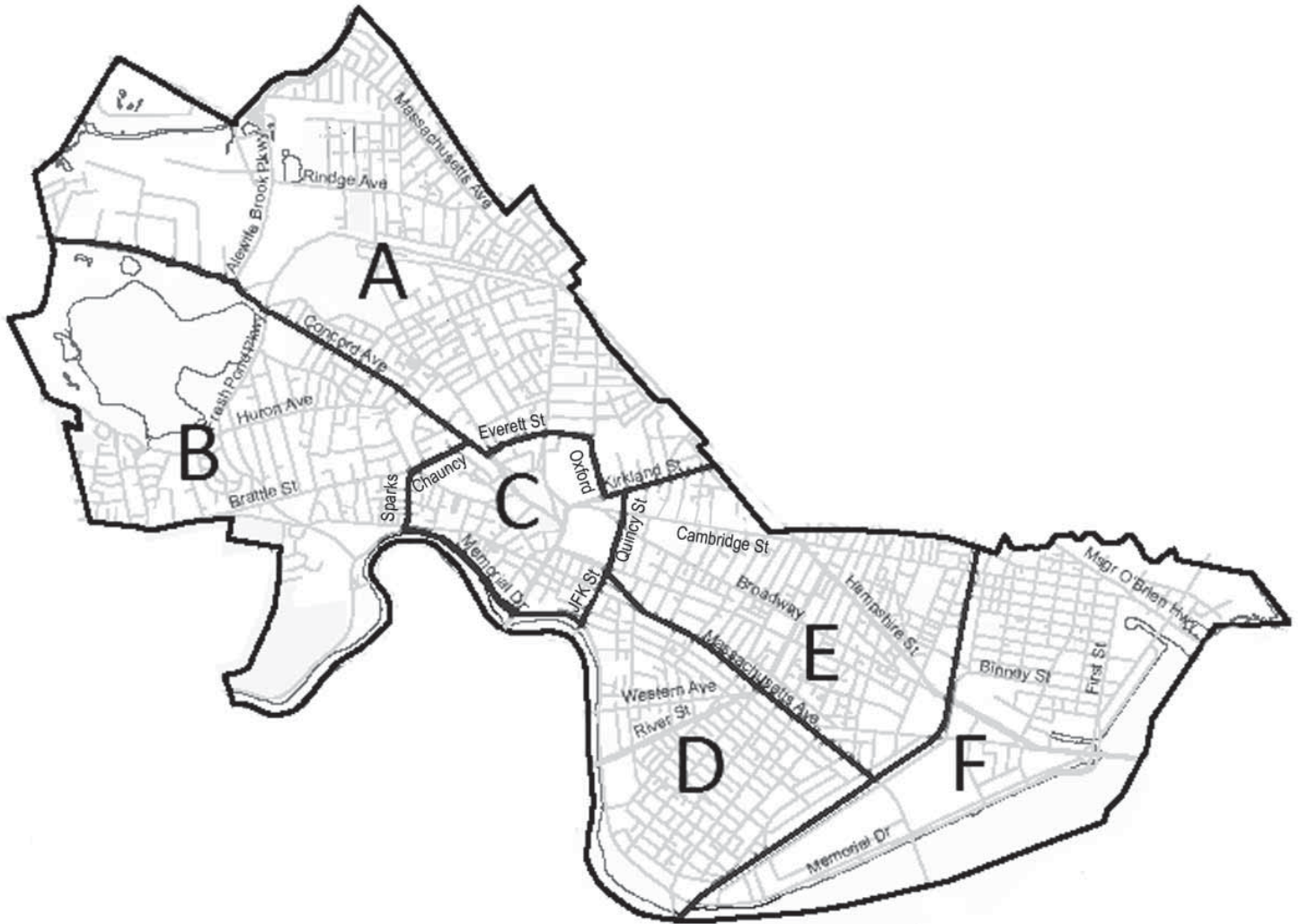
10. We would appreciate if you could share with us any reasons you would or wouldn't be happy with a particular school for your child(ren).

11. We want families to feel positive about sending their children to the Cambridge Public Schools; please add any comments or suggestions below.

(Optional)

To help us understand your responses it would be helpful to know more about you. These questions are optional. Choosing to answer the optional questions below will make your answers more meaningful and useful in improving the Controlled Choice Policy.

12. Please circle the area of Cambridge where you live.



13. Do you have children who are currently attending (check all that apply):

- Cambridge Public Schools - JK, K, or Montessori Children's House
- Cambridge Public Schools - Grades 1-5
- Cambridge Public Schools - Grades 6-12
- Private School
- Parochial/Faith Based School
- Charter School
- Home School

14. What is your approximate household income?

- Under \$65,000
- Over \$65,001

Thank you for your help!

Please return this form using the envelope provided, or mail by January 31 to
Cambridge Public Schools, Att: School Committee, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139