

**Frequently Asked Questions About the Appeal Process for a Consortium  
Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) •  
Downcounty Consortium (DCC) • Northeast Consortium (NEC)**

**1. What is the purpose of a Consortium appeal?**

*An applicant receives his or her first choice school, but wants to change that choice  
OR*

*After Round 1 and Round 2 of the lottery, a student does not receive his or her first  
choice school*

In either of the circumstances listed above, the student and/or the parent/guardian may submit an appeal to the director of the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS). The purpose of the appeal is to request that the applicant's file be reviewed by the director because of a hardship that may make it difficult to meet the student's needs at the assigned school.

By definition, hardship depends on the family's individual and personal situation. Problems that are common to large numbers of families, such as issues involving provision of child care, do not constitute a hardship, absent additional compelling factors. Documentation that can be independently verified must accompany all hardship requests.

All of the schools in the MSMC, DCC, and NEC offer comprehensive academic programs, including special education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services. In addition, all schools offer a range of elective courses, after school activities, clubs, and sports. Therefore, appeals based on program offerings at a particular school are not considered hardships.

**2. Who reviews Consortium appeals?**

The director of DCCAPS reviews all appeals. The director considers the hardship, as well as space availability at the requested school.

**3. What are the possible outcomes of an appeal?**

The director can approve an appeal and allow the change of school assignment to occur. The director can deny the appeal, in which case the student remains assigned to the original school. If an appeal is denied, the student and/or parent/guardian can continue the appeals process with the Office of the Chief Operating Officer.