

## DPS NEWCOMER CENTERS

### PURPOSE:

Newcomer Centers are programs at specific DPS schools that help students who are new to the United States, are not proficient in English, have interrupted formal education in their home country and have attended an American school for less than one year. At Newcomer Centers, students learn skills that will help them be successful in American schools, along with basic English reading, writing and math skills. Most Newcomer students remain in the Newcomer Center program for one or two semesters, until they are ready to attend classes at their school of choice.

### LOCATIONS OF NEWCOMER CENTERS:

| Elementary Schools   | Middle Schools  | High Schools  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Isabella Bird Community School</b><br/>2701 Lima St. Denver, CO 80238<br/>(720) 423-9990<br/><a href="#">School Website</a></p> <p><b>Place Bridge Academy (K-5)</b><br/>7125 Cherry Creek N. Dr. Denver, CO 80224<br/>(720) 424-0960<br/><a href="#">School Website</a></p> | <p><b>Merrill Middle School</b><br/>1551 S. Monroe St. Denver, CO 80210<br/>(720) 424-0600<br/><a href="#">School Website</a></p> | <p><b>Abraham Lincoln High School</b><br/>2285 S. Federal Blvd. Denver, CO 80219<br/>(720) 423-5000<br/><a href="#">School Website</a></p> <p><b>DCIS Montbello (6-12)</b><br/>5000 Crown Blvd., Denver, CO 80239<br/>(720) 423-5900<br/><a href="#">School Website</a></p> <p><b>South High School</b><br/>1700 E. Louisiana Ave. Denver, CO 80210<br/>(720) 423-6000<br/><a href="#">School Website</a></p> |

### IDENTIFYING YOUR STUDENT AS A NEWCOMER:

The office staff at your home school is trained to work with you and your family to identify the best placement for your student. You may be referred to the appropriate Newcomer Center for further evaluation if your student meets ALL of the following criteria:

- The student has a history of interrupted or limited formal education
- W-APT Placement score indicates the student is not English proficient. If no W-APT score is available, the students shows minimal literacy in his/her native language and in English.
- The student has, at the time of initial placement, been enrolled in a school in the United States for two or fewer semesters.

DPS is a choice district, which means that you have the choice to place your students at your home school, ELA Zone School, a Newcomer Center, or participate in the School Choice process to enroll your child at any DPS school. The DPS school nearest your home and ELA Zone Schools *may not* turn your student away because of language ability.

### TRANSPORTATION:

**Elementary Students:** Transportation is provided to a Newcomer Center if students live more than one mile from the Newcomer Center.

**Middle School Students:** Transportation is provided to a Newcomer Center if students live more than two 2.5 miles from the Newcomer Center.

**High School Students:** A public bus pass is provided to students through RTD for students who live 3.5 miles from the Newcomer Center.

## **IS A NEWCOMER CENTER RIGHT FOR MY STUDENT?**

Newcomer Centers can be a great place for students to learn about their new country, their new language and their new school; but families should take several other things into consideration when thinking about which school they want their child to attend.

**Parent and Student Choice:** You may be new to the enrollment process in DPS. As a choice district, all students and their parents in DPS have the right to attend *any* school, which means that every school in DPS is prepared to serve *all* students, regardless of educational background, language levels, or native language.

**Siblings and Family:** It is possible that you may want to keep siblings, cousins, distant relatives, neighbors, or other acquaintances at the same school, and that is OK. Just because your student qualifies for a Newcomer Center, it does not mean they must attend that school. Schools should honor your preferences for placement.

### **Transportation:**

**Elementary Students:** If students do not live near the bus stop, they may have to walk a significant distance to the nearest one. Additionally, being bussed to a Newcomer Center could potentially mean your student is on a school bus for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon, which should be taken into consideration when you are deciding upon Newcomer Center placement.

**High School Students:** Since older students receive a public bus pass, this could potentially mean that students are walking to bus stops in the early morning hours before daylight, and late night hours after sunset, and could include several transfers as students travel across the city.

## **WHAT'S NEXT?**

If your student has been identified as eligible to attend a Newcomer Center, you can choose to enroll him or her by filling out the Newcomer Center registration form and returning it to the school office. You will be contacted by the Newcomer Center with more information about what you should do next.

If you choose to enroll your student at their neighborhood school or nearest ELA Zone School, the office staff will provide the necessary documents to complete their registration and begin attending school.