

DPS Stapleton Enrollment Zone Best Practices

1. **You are guaranteed a spot at ONE of the 6 Stapleton Enrollment Zone Elementary Schools starting in Kindergarten | ECE/Preschool is not guaranteed to anyone at any school**
2. ECE3 does not guarantee ECE4 | ECE4 does not guarantee Kinder (no SEZ exceptions)
3. Treat your Kindergarten search like you would/did treat your Preschool search
4. Overall DPS and CDE scores are only one of MANY things to consider – do not let them keep you from touring/considering schools (check trend, focus on growth, academic gaps)
5. Don't let the cost of Private Schools keep you from applying (most have large financial aid budgets)
6. **Know your Deadlines, Admission Priorities, SEZ Proximity Zone, Odds, and Resources**
7. Calculate your Budget and Costs (including Kindergarten, before/after care, extracurriculars)
8. SEZ kiddos can take the bus to any/all SEZ Elementary Schools if they live more than a walkable mile away (no bus if you attend an Elementary School outside of SEZ)
9. Find ALL schools within your commute preference: Trad Public, Charter Public, Innovation & Private
10. Do basic research to begin to eliminate schools from that list (e.g. do you want to cross I-70?)
11. Create Top 5-7 public and private schools list and **Tour them all**: trust your gut, give each school three strikes, ask to tour each grade-level classroom you are interested in
12. Tour all 6 SEZ Elementary Schools if possible, Use at least 3 for Kindergarten Choice
13. Find the best option for your child (most kiddos will thrive at any SEZ school, we promise)
14. Assess/Test your child, if needed (IQ/Highly Gifted, Developmental, 504/IEP)
15. Think one year at a time to start, be kind to yourself
16. **DPS Choice (outside of SEZ) siblings are not guaranteed enrollment (super rare, but does happen)**