

Community Input Process

This fall, the Achievement School District begins anew its process of engaging families, communities, and public charter school operators to create new and meaningful partnerships that will transform outcomes for the students who need it most. How did we learn from last year’s process? What’s different and better this year? Parents, read on to find answers to these questions—and to learn how you can get involved right now!

Community Input Town Hall Meeting Schedule

The school communities participating in the community input process this year are Caldwell-Guthrie, Hawkins Mill and Sheffield elementary schools, Kirby and Raleigh-Egypt middle schools, and Hillcrest High School. See the schedule below for the date, time and location of your town hall meeting.

Date	Tuesday, September 15, 6-8 PM	Thursday, September 17, 6-8 PM	Saturday, September 19, 12-2 PM	Tuesday, September 22, 6-8 PM
Conversion-Eligible School(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkins Mill Elementary School Raleigh-Egypt Middle School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheffield Elementary School Kirby Middle School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hillcrest High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caldwell-Guthrie Elementary School
Location	Union Grove Baptist Church 2285 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, TN 38127	Olivet Fellowship Full Gospel Baptist Church 4450 Knight Arnold Road, Memphis, TN 38118	Abyssinian Missionary Baptist Church 3890 Millbranch Road, Memphis, TN 38116	Mount Austin Missionary Baptist Church 1178 Breedlove St., Memphis, TN 38107

Listening, Learning and Getting Better

We place a high value on learning and improvement—not just for our students, but for ourselves. Following last year’s school matching process, we worked extensively with parents and community stakeholders to rethink and redesign how we engage parents, get feedback, and connect communities with public school operators. Based on what we heard, we’ve changed the process to elevate the voice of neighborhood parents and provide clearer opportunities for communities to get involved in school transformation.

Shifting from “School Matching” to “Community Input”

An essential part of school conversion is the “Community Input” process, formerly known as “School Matching,” which will now extend from August through November this year. It involves five major phases.

1. **Early engagement.** First, the process **begins in August with an intense focus on informing parents** about the current performance of their child’s school, what it means to have a school on the state’s Priority list, and ways parents can get involved, including joining the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC). Parents can expect to see mailers, open community meetings, and more intimate “Dinners & Dialogues” where this information will be shared by the ASD and advocacy partners.
2. **Operator engagement.** Second, **ASD-authorized public school operators will engage the school communities** they are interested in serving through ongoing conversations with parents and stakeholders during September and October. Their focus will be learning more about the needs of local students and how they can tailor their model to best serve individual school communities.
3. **Neighborhood Advisory Councils.** Next, **several Neighborhood Advisory Councils (NACs) will be formed to represent neighborhoods and Priority school communities** participating in the process. NACs will replace and build on the excellent work of the citywide Achievement Advisory Council (AAC) of previous years, and the majority of NAC members will be parents with students zoned to or attending Priority schools in the neighborhood.
4. **Application for School Transformation.** The ASD will then **ask each school operator interested in serving a Priority school in the 2016-17 school year to submit an Application for School Transformation (AST)** to the NAC. The AST is a school-specific action plan for how an operator will address the needs of that school community, based on their engagement and what they have learned in the community during September and October. This application includes 8 specific categories that address the priority questions of parents and stakeholders, including academic programs and support, extracurricular activities, school personnel, and plans for parent and community engagement.
5. **NAC Assessment.** Finally, the **NACs will carefully review each AST and interview the interested operators to assess the strength of operator plans in meeting the needs and interests of their school community.** These Neighborhood Advisory Council assessments will be used by the ASD to make final decisions regarding school and operator matches in December.

Here is a snapshot of the Community Input Process:



Parents: Let's Get Started Now

We are excited about the changes to the process, and we want and need your help! If you are interested in getting involved, please [complete an NAC application today!](#)

Stay tuned to achievementschooldistrict.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for more information and updates about the Community Input and school conversion process.

We look forward to working with you!