

As we stated in our response to the CSAC Initial Questions:

"As outlined in state code Title 14, Chapter 5, § 506, Restrictions, BASSE has selected three of the allowed preferences for students hoping to enroll in the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence. One of those preferences is that "[s]tudents who have a specific interest in the school's teaching methods, philosophy, or educational focus" may be given preference as long as it's been stated in the charter application.

As our other two preferences are location-based, i.e., students residing within a 5-mile radius of the school and students residing within the regular school district in which the school is located, the board wanted to include a third preference for students who would not receive preferential access to enrollment due to living in another school district in Sussex County. The intention is to provide a way for students to express their interest in the service-learning curriculum that BASSE offers as it is a unique educational option.

As explained in our enrollment plan, all enrollment preferences would only come into consideration if the number of applicants to attend BASSE exceeds the number of seats available in our school. Students with applications that qualify in the preference categories would be accepted in the order of the preferences (students within a five-mile radius of the school, then students who reside in the regular school district, and then students who expressed interest in our school's teaching methods, philosophy, or educational focus). Once all the students who qualify for enrollment through the preferences are accepted, all remaining students will be entered into a blind lottery and accepted until our seats are filled. Students who are not selected during the lottery will then be placed on a waiting list until BASSE's first day of school.

If a student has made an effort to submit an item that demonstrates their interest in BASSE's teaching methods, philosophy, or educational focus, it will be accepted. As long as the submission meets the minimum requirements (a video essay, voice memo, presentation, or piece of writing that demonstrates their interest in the BASSE program), the BASSE board will find the application supplement acceptable. The "detailed description" mentioned in our enrollment plan will reiterate this, along with instructions to submit the supplement and prompts to help students brainstorm their submissions. This particular preference is to provide access to students and allow every student the opportunity to attend BASSE if that is their choice."

Additionally, we are planning to be located in an area where we could draw students who live in the same community as the physical location of the school as our aim is to be a community school that can give back directly to the community.