

Educational Option at BASE

What is Educational Option?

Educational Option, or Ed. Opt., is the way in which 8th graders are matched with BASE. Up until last year we were a Limited Unscreened school, but the DOE no longer uses that method. We chose to become Ed. Opt. instead.

The Ed. Opt. method tries to spread around students with high, medium and low levels of academic proficiency, so there is a balance in every school. Also, attending an open house no longer factors into the matching process.

How does Ed. Opt. work?

Every 8th grader in the city is ranked according to his or her 7th grade ELA state exam score. Students are then divided into three categories based on this score: lowest third, middle third and top third.

Each year BASE takes in about 135 9th graders. Of these 135 seats:

- 22 seats (16%) are reserved for students in the lowest third
- 92 seats (68%) are reserved for students in the middle third
- 22 seats (16%) are reserved for students in the highest third

How are students selected for each group of seats?

For each group of seats, half are selected by BASE. The other half are done by lottery.

Grouping according to 7 th grade ELA score	Seats reserved for BASE to select	Seats that are randomly assigned
<i>Highest third</i>	11	11
<i>Middle third</i>	48	48
<i>Lowest third</i>	11	11

What does BASE consider when selecting students?

BASE takes several factors into account when we make our decisions. These include attendance in 7th grade as well as a student's 7th grade math score, grade point average and whether or not the students attempted an honors class. We also take into account zip codes – we don't prefer one zip code over another, but we do want to have even distribution over the Bronx. You can see the full scoring rubric on the back of this sheet.

Does how I rank BASE or where I live still matter?

Yes! The formula the DOE uses takes into account how high an 8th grader ranks BASE. A student ranking BASE #1 will have a better chance of being matched than a student who ranked BASE lower. Also, students who live in the Bronx have preference over students who live in another borough.