

snapshot

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MISSION PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD: RESIDENCE AND SFUSD STUDENT ENROLLMENT PATTERNS 2011-2012

Cristina Lash, Monika Sanchez, and Rebecca London

The Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA),¹ the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), and the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University (Gardner Center) are collaborating to understand residence and school enrollment patterns of students and families in the Mission Promise Neighborhood (MPN) service population. MPN was established to ensure that children, youth, and their families in San Francisco's Mission District achieve both academic success and economic security. The initiative defines its service population as families living within the established MPN boundaries or SFUSD students who live elsewhere in the city but are enrolled in one of the four MPN focus schools. SFUSD operates a school choice system that allows students, regardless of where they live, to apply to any school in the district. Students are assigned schools based on a computer matching algorithm.²

This analysis explores a question that is central to MPN's efforts: Who are the children and youth involved with MPN? It uses SFUSD student records from the 2011-12 school year to present information about students who lived in MPN and where they were enrolled in school. It also looks at the four MPN focus schools: Bryant Elementary (K-5), Cesar Chavez Elementary (K-5), Everett Middle School (6-8), and John O'Connell High School (9-12), to see where in San Francisco students enrolled these schools lived.^{3,4}

Key Findings

- Of the 1,636 students enrolled in one of the four MPN focus schools, 39% lived within MPN's geographic boundaries and 61% lived outside MPN (Exhibit 1). A higher percentage of elementary school students lived inside MPN compared to middle and high school students.
- Of the 4,342 students who lived within MPN's geographic boundaries, 15% were enrolled in one of the four MPN focus schools, 13% were enrolled in a non-focus school within MPN's geographic boundaries, and 72% were enrolled in schools outside MPN's borders. Among MPN resident

¹ The Mission Economic Development Agency is the U.S. Department of Education grantee awarded funds to implement the Mission Promise Neighborhood.

² San Francisco Unified School District (2012). *How does the student assignment computer program work?* SFUSD Educational Placement Center Fact Sheet. Accessed December 3, 2013 at <http://www.sfusd.edu/en/assets/sfusd-staff/enroll/files/2012-13/Assignment-Transfer%20process%20explained.pdf>

³ We use students' reported address in their 2011-2012 SFUSD records to determine where they live. Living in MPN was defined as an address within the 13 Census tracts that comprise the neighborhood.

⁴ This analysis considers families with school-age children enrolled in SFUSD and does not include those whose children have not yet begun school.

students who enrolled in schools outside of the MPN, 20% enrolled in one of four schools: Leonard Flynn Elementary, Edison Charter (K-8), James Lick Middle, and Mission High. The remaining 80% enrolled in one of over 100 other SFUSD schools.

EXHIBIT 1: Percent of students enrolled in MPN focus schools and other schools, by residence, 2011-12

	Students living in MPN		Students living outside MPN	
	#	%	#	%
Enrolled in MPN Focus School*	637	15%	999	2%
Enrolled in Other School in MPN**	575	13%	911	2%
Enrolled in School Outside MPN	3,130	72%	52,135	96%
TOTAL	4,342	100%	54,045	100%

Source: Gardner Center tabulations of 2011-12 SFUSD administrative data

Notes: 64 (0.1%) SFUSD students had an incomplete address in 2011-12 and could not be placed as living either within or outside MPN.

*MPN focus schools include Bryant Elementary, Cesar Chavez Elementary, Everett Middle School, and John O'Connell High School.

**Other schools in MPN include Marshall Elementary, Moscone Elementary, Buena Vista/Horace Mann (K-8), and San Francisco International High School.

- Most students who lived outside MPN's borders, but enrolled in one of the four focus schools, came from neighborhoods that were not adjacent to MPN (89%); just 11% came from MPN's immediate surrounding area. Among students enrolled in MPN focus schools who lived outside of MPN, the top sending ZIP codes included: 94124 (Bayview-Hunter's Point, 21%), 94112 (Excelsior-Outer Mission, 17%), 94110 (Bernal Heights, 9%), and 94134 (Visitacion Valley, 8%).
- MPN serves a population that is predominantly Latino and Spanish-speaking. Among students residing within MPN, a higher percentage of Latino and English learner students were enrolled in a school within MPN than were enrolled outside of MPN.

Conclusions and Implications

This analysis may help to inform how MPN's place-based strategies serve the current defined service population. In the 2011-12 school year, 5,341 SFUSD students fell within MPN's service population definition. However, a majority of these students were either enrolled in a non-focus school (69%) or lived outside the MPN boundaries (19%). This analysis suggests that MPN may need to consider how its service and outreach strategies might need to be modified to fully reach all its targeted families.

More detailed information on this study can be found in an Issue Brief on the Gardner Center website.

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