

SOTA/SAMI/iDEA Admissions Protocol-

Advertising

SOTA, SAMI & iDEA are advertised to Tacoma Public School 8th grade families:

- SOTA/SAMI/iDEA representatives travel to all TPS middle schools to provide information to 8th grade students during lunch and in science/math/art classes
- 8th grade counselors receive 10 or more applications with interview appointments for distribution to their students
- 8th grade students receive School Messenger phone calls advertising Information Nights
- 8th grade students receive home mailings advertising the school, information nights and the application process
- The SOTA/SAMI/iDEA website advertises the information nights and application process
- Information Nights are held at TPS middle schools, SOTA, SAMI, iDEA
- Application Workshops are held at TPS middle schools

Information Nights for prospective students and families

Interested SOTA/SAMI/iDEA applicants attend one of twenty Information Nights held around the district, and City. At the Information Nights, applicants hear from current students, staff, family and community members regarding the SOTA/SAMI/iDEA educational program. Applicants receive an informational brochure, application and campus conversation appointment. Applicants are also able to download the application from the school websites, or pick up one from their school counselors.

Campus Conversation appointments are then scheduled via telephone call to the SOTA/SAMI/iDEA (253-571-7911) admissions office or through the 8th grade counselors.

What is included in the application?

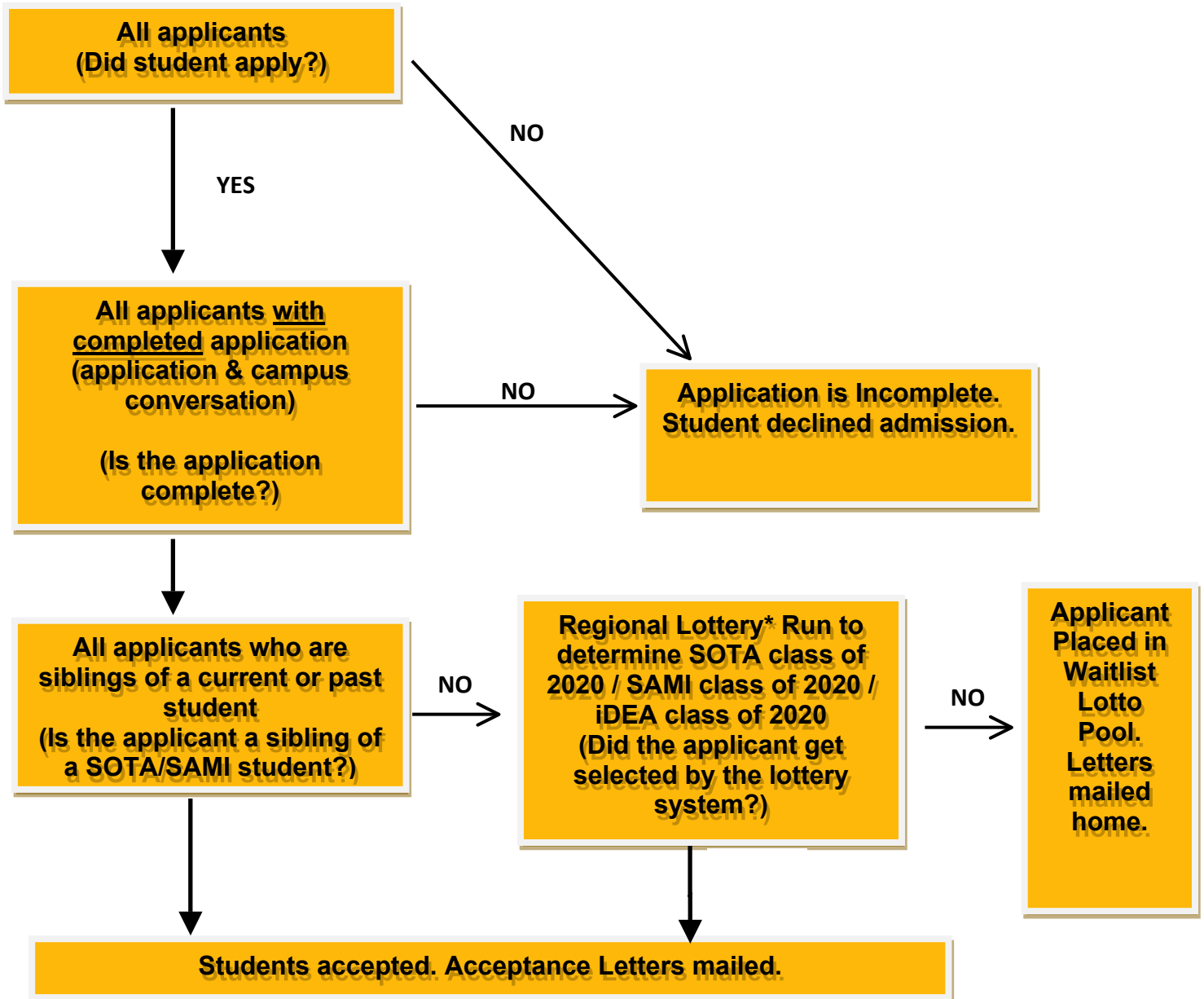
The application includes a "Getting to Know You" questionnaire, and a collection of student works. SOTA/SAMI/iDEA applicants put together the application using their Navigation 101 best works collected at middle school in advisory. Students are invited to contact SOTA/SAMI/iDEA for help with their application. The SOTA/SAMI/iDEA admissions team hosts "Application Workshops" at target middle schools to help put applications together. Middle Schools with the highest diversity and free & reduced lunch rates are targeted and prioritized for scheduling the Application Workshops.

Campus Conversation

The SOTA/SAMI/iDEA campus conversation provides an opportunity for applicants to sit down with a current student and staff member to learn more about the school. Students are provided time to think about the conversation questions they will be asked as well as formulate their own questions. Students are then given the opportunity to respond the three questions in conversation with the SOTA/SAMI/iDEA student and staff member regarding why they want to be a SOTA/SAMI/iDEA student and how SOTA/SAMI/iDEA will help them to reach their goals. It is then the student's turn to ask questions of the staff and current student. The purpose of the campus conversation is to provide an opportunity to talk with each applicant and to help answer individual student questions. It provides an opportunity for the applicant to ask questions of staff and current students, learning more about the schools.

Selection Protocol Flowchart –

Applicants will be considered as separate groups following the same flowchart. The three groups are: Class of 2020 SAMI, Class of 2020 SOTA, Class of 2020 iDEA.



*The Regional Lottery is defined each year by the percentage of 8th grade students attending each Tacoma middle school in the district. Spots available for each middle school are determined by taking the student spots determined available for the school (SOTA/SAMI/iDEA) and applying the percentage of 8th graders in each school. Example: If First Creek has 12.5 % of the 8th graders in the district and SAMI is accepting 80 total students, SAMI will take 10 (12.5% of 80) First Creek students.