

## **SOTA/SAMI Admissions Protocol-**

- **How do we advertise?**

SOTA & SAMI are advertised to Tacoma Public School 8<sup>th</sup> grade families:

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

- **Come learn more at the Information Nights for prospective students and families**

Interested SOTA/SAMI applicants attend one of twenty Information Nights held around the district. At the Information Nights, applicants hear from current students, staff and family members regarding the SOTA/SAMI educational program. Applicants receive an informational brochure, application and interview appointment. Applicants are also able to download the application from the school websites, or pick up one from their school counselors. Interview appointments are then scheduled via telephone call to the SOTA / SAMI office or through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselors.

- **What is included in the application?**

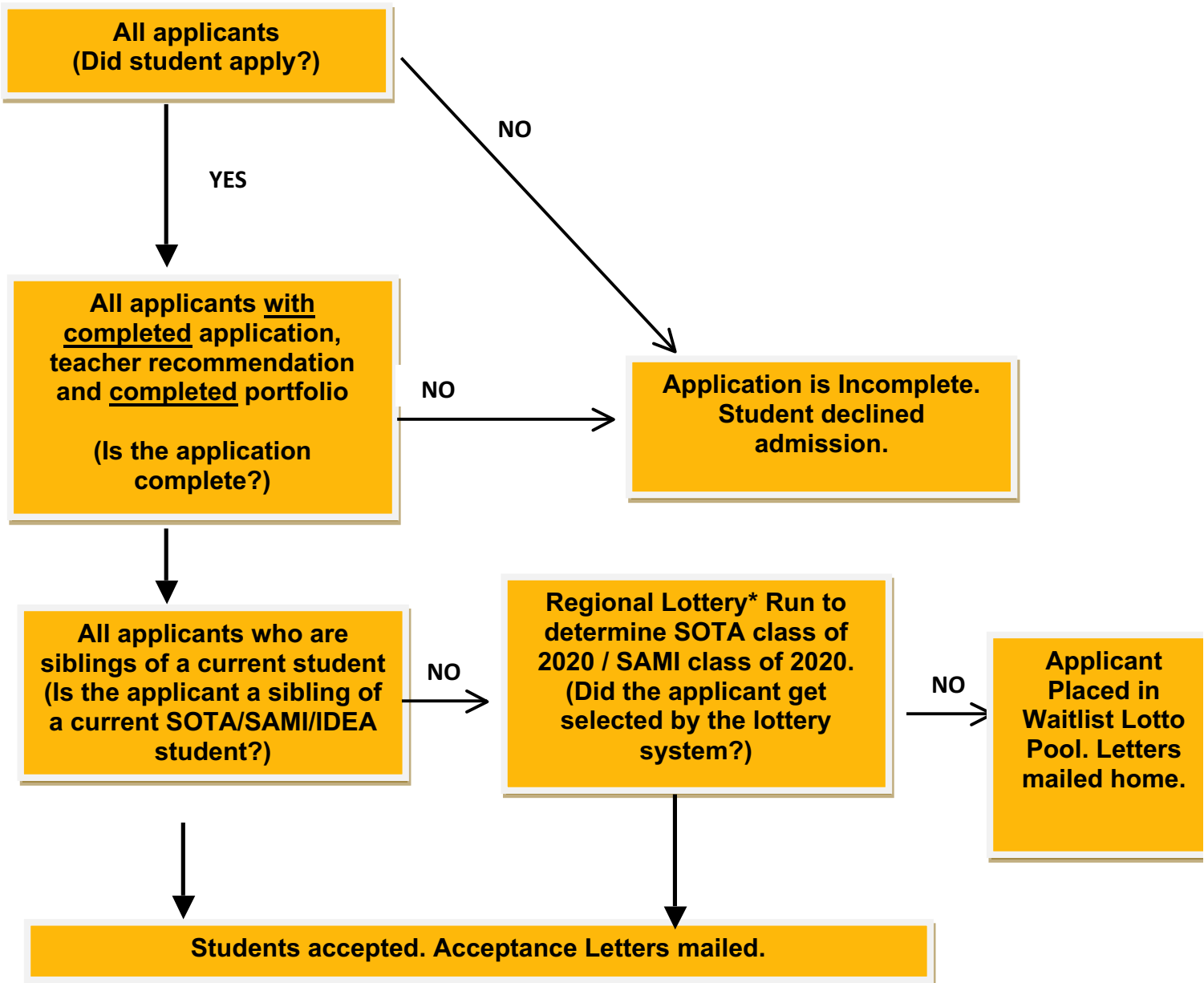
The application includes a “Getting to Know You” questionnaire, teacher recommendation, and a collection of student works. SOTA / SAMI applicants put together the application using their best works collected at middle school. Students are invited to contact SOTA / SAMI for help with their application. The SOTA / SAMI 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.

- **What are the interviews?**

The SOTA / SAMI interview provides an opportunity for applicants to sit down with a current student and staff member and learn more about the school. There are two parts to the interview: a written portion and a verbal portion. Students are given a written interview that provides them with time to think about the questions they will be asked as well as formulate their own questions. Students are then asked three questions by the SOTA / SAMI student and staff member regarding why they want to be a SOTA / SAMI student and how SOTA / SAMI will help them to reach their goals. It is then the students turn to ask questions of the staff and current student. The purpose of the interview 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 flow-chart. The two groups are: Class of 2022 SAMI, SOTA, IDEA



\*The Regional Lottery is defined each year by the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> 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) and applying the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> graders in each school. Example: If First Creek has 12.5 % of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the district and SAMI is accepting 80 total students, SAMI will take 10 (12.5% of 80) First Creek students.