



IIPSC

Innovation in
Public School Choice

Universal Enrollment Systems: Practical Considerations.

Presented by Gaby Fighetti, Deputy Executive Director of IIPSC
January 12, 2015 at the meeting of the Center on Reinventing Public Education
(CRPE)

Agenda

1. What is IIPSC ?
2. School Choice: a Market Design approach.
3. Universal Enrollment.
4. Questions and discussion.

What is IIPSC ?

The Institute for Innovation in
Public School Choice.

Our Mission:

IIPSC's mission is to support school systems and their partner organizations in developing and maintaining transparent, equitable, and efficient enrollment systems and to continually improve the design of systems of choice.

Our expert team has created better enrollment and school choice systems for over 10 years



Neil Dorosin, Executive Director, has led IIPSC since 2007. He was previously the Director of High School Admissions Operations at the New York City Department of Education from 2004 – 2007, where overhauled and managed NYC DOE’s high school choice process



Gaby Fighetti, Deputy Executive Director, joined IIPSC in September 2014. She was previously the Executive Director of Student Enrollment at the Louisiana Recovery School District from 2011 – 2014, where she implemented a new common enrollment process, OneApp.



Al Roth, Chairman of the Board of Directors, is a Professor of Economics at Stanford and a Professor Emeritus of Economics and Business Administration at Harvard. He shared the 2012 Nobel memorial prize in Economics for his work on market design.

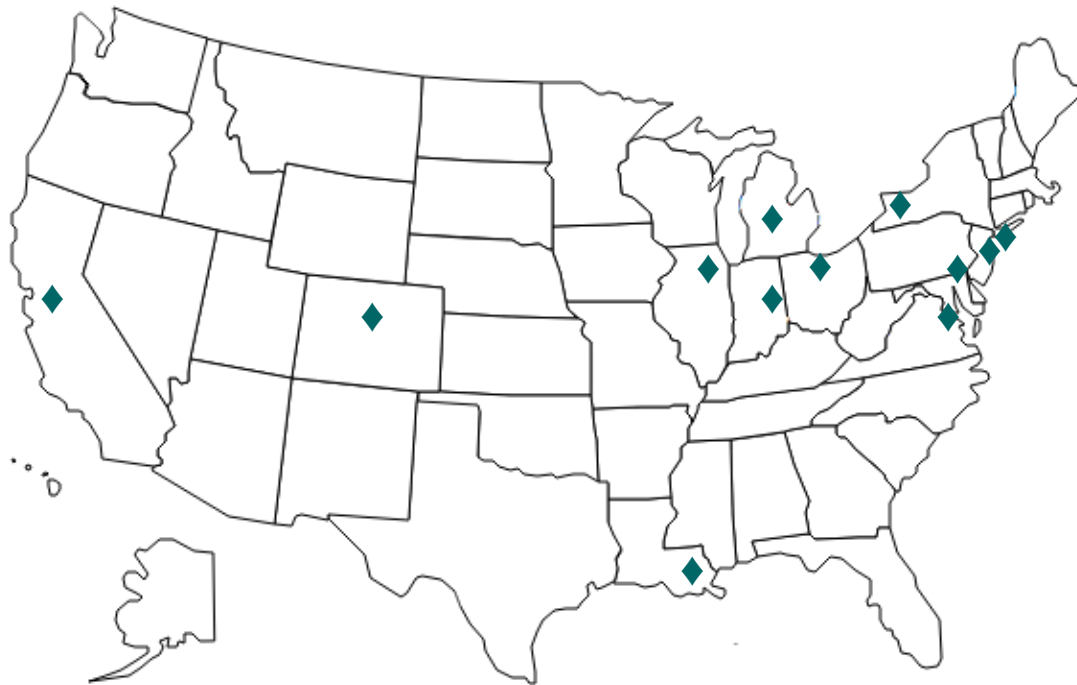


Atila Abdulkadiroglu, Board Director, is a Professor of Economics at Duke University. His research focuses on efficient and effective design of student admissions systems, as well as, on program evaluation in education.



Parag Pathak, Board Director, is an Associate Professor of Economics at MIT and a Research Associate in the NBER’s programs on Education, Public Economics and Industrial Organization. His research has directly affected the lives of more than one million public school students.

We work with cities and partners across the country



Cities:

- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Detroit
- Denver
- Indianapolis
- New York
- New Orleans
- Newark
- Oakland
- Rochester
- Philadelphia
- Washington, D.C.

Partners

- Bellwether Education Partners
- Center on Reinventing Public Education
- Great Schools
- The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
- The Walton Family Foundation

◆ = IIPSC enrollment city

The IIPSC approach

Our work is shaped by a strong belief system:

1. Equity, efficiency, and transparency.
2. Political neutrality.
3. Better service for all families.
4. Schools and also school systems benefit too.
5. Rigorous research.
6. Nonprofit.

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Market design

Enrollment as an allocation problem:

- Popular seats are scarce goods.
- Public school seats must be allocated fairly, efficiently, and transparently.
- Cannot use price to make allocations – need policy.
- Two-sided matching market.
- High stakes and multi-faceted competition.
- Most school choice markets are not “healthy.”

Problems for parents

1. No real process in place – what do I need to do to get a school for my child?!?
2. Enrollment is cumbersome and complicated.
3. Lack of information to help families make good choices.
4. Too many do not get the schools they want.
5. Takes too long to get a seat – congestion.
6. No accountability mechanisms.

Problems for schools

1. Enrollment is an administrative burden.
2. Profoundly unstable registers.
3. Hard to hire teachers effectively.
4. No real data on demand.
5. Sub-optimal match quality.
6. Perverse incentives regarding transparency.
7. Exposed to false enrollment claims.
8. Outdated constraints on enrollment policy.
9. Invest in marketing over quality.

Problems for administrative bodies

1. Challenges in student data management.
2. No accurate data on the demand for schools.
3. Hard to account for all students.
4. Perverse incentives in competition for students.
5. Hostility across administrative sectors.
6. Hard to account for school quality.
7. Hard to wisely implement portfolio strategy.
8. Supply/demand imbalance is maintained.

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Universal Enrollment

Features:

- 1) Enrollment as annual cycle, not just one lottery.
- 2) Single application used for all schools.
- 3) High quality information available to all families.
- 4) Central clearinghouse and state-of-the-art assignment algorithm used to create a match.
- 5) Safe for families to reveal true preferences.
- 6) Results can be easily explained and are audited.
- 7) Demand and enrollment data informs system-wide planning.

Universal Enrollment

Common misconceptions – UE is not:

- 1) A one-size-fits all mechanism – it must be locally crafted.
- 2) An attempt to support any one type of administration.
- 3) An attempt to support any particular kind of school.
- 4) Prescriptive about education policy.
- 5) An attempt to control or shape admissions policy at schools.
- 6) An attempt to do away with neighborhood schools.
- 7) About making computers pick schools for kids.
- 8) A way to give everyone their first choice school.
- 9) A direct method of improving schools.

Universal Enrollment

Work streams:

1. Stakeholder engagement.
2. Market design
3. Technology
4. Communications and guidance.
5. Implementation.
6. Assessment.

Contact Information

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