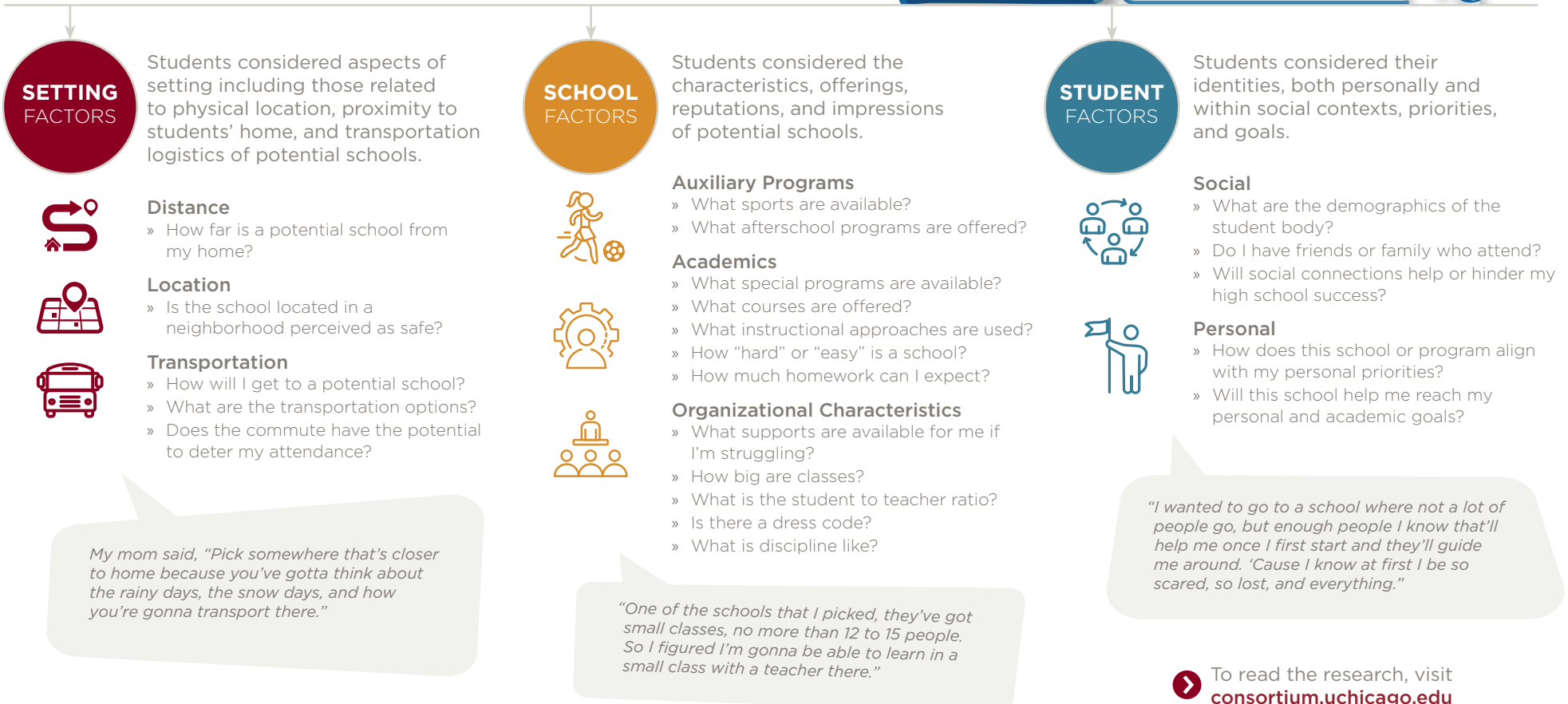
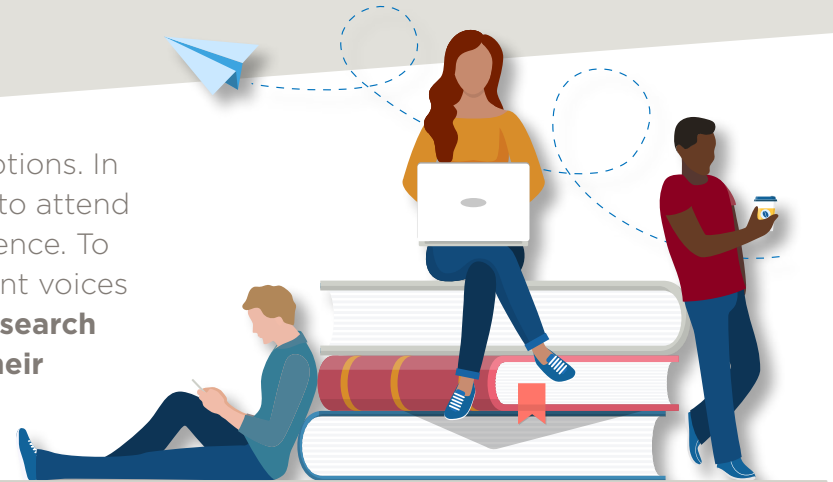


# Student Consideration Factors in High School Choice

Students and families in Chicago are increasingly taking up school choice options. In the last five years, about 75 percent of eighth-grade students have decided to attend a high school other than the one designated by their neighborhood of residence. To understand the process of high school choice, it is essential to include student voices and experiences. **A new brief from the UChicago Consortium on School Research offers key insights from focus groups with eighth-grade students about their experiences in the high school search and application process.**



## How Schools Can Help Students Through the Search and Application Process

Student consideration factors provide insights and implications for schools and student-support networks to help students apply to the high school of their choice. Students said that out-of-date websites, confusion about school ranking, and the inability to meet additional application requirements were barriers to the process.

➤ To read the research, visit [consortium.uchicago.edu](https://consortium.uchicago.edu)

### High School Actions

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- 1 Keep websites up-to-date with information helpful for the high school choice process, including:
  - » Academics (classes available, programs, workload)
  - » Extra-curricular opportunities
  - » Sports
  - » Discipline and dress code policies
  - » Photos or videos that give a sense of what the school is like
  - » Transportation options
- 2 Find ways for prospective students to hear from current students:
  - » Consider student voices on school websites talking about their experiences
  - » Consider opportunities for prospective students to visit the high school and meet current students
- 3 Make it easy for students with fewer resources and greater challenges to fulfill any application requirements outside of the GoCPS system.

### Middle School Actions

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**Provide consistent, accurate information** about how to use the GoCPS system to students and families. Include information about how offers will be made.

**Show students how to access information** about high schools, and how to figure out transportation requirements and logistics for different schools.

**Make sure all students have the supports they need** to fulfill any supplemental requirements to apply to their list of schools.

**Provide emotional support and reassurance.** Help students to get excited about their high school choices and address their fears and concerns.