Competition extends decision time, for better informed choices. Figure 4. Competition developed.

Previous experience adds value to decision, as do student contributions to questioning school choice assumptions. Making time available for reflection is key.

Critical Realist philosophy is adopted to investigate the decision dynamics of the school choice problem for families. A case study strategy centred on K12 enrolment in a competitive urban environment, reflects complexities facing families selecting their next school for students aged eleven.

Whereas knowledge of schools moderates parent wellbeing, such data can only mediate child wellbeing. Establishing new connections in advanced family decision making suggests empowering students for widening school choice options but also in questioning assumptions with reliable information.