

Students

School Attendance Areas

Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment

The Board of Education endorses the neighborhood school concept and makes many decisions based on student population within the attendance areas of residence. The Board recognizes, however, that students may wish to attend a school or participate in a program located in an area other than that of their assigned school. Therefore, students shall be allowed to attend any school or participate in any program of their choice on a space available, first-come, first-served basis.

In implementing the open enrollment program, the district is not required to:

1. Make alterations in the structure of a requested school or make alterations to the arrangement or function of rooms within a requested school.
2. Establish and offer any particular program in a school if such program is not offered currently in such school.
3. Alter or waive any established eligibility criteria for participation in a particular program including age requirements, course prerequisites and required levels of performance.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, a student may be assigned outside his attendance area by ~~mutual~~ agreement of the Principals and/or Superintendent in the special interest of the student and/or school.

Open Enrollment and Transfers

Students and their parents/guardian shall be notified on an annual basis of the options available through open enrollment in sufficient time to apply.

Students within a designated attendance area shall have priority in registering in that school. Students may apply for open enrollment in a school outside their attendance area and such applications shall be approved if there is space available in the requested school and the application has been submitted to the Superintendent's office on or before July 31st of the current school year in accordance with this policy.

Parents and/or students who desire a change of school after July 31st of the current school year must submit a letter to the Superintendent's office together with the required form requesting a transfer. The request shall be reviewed and acted upon in accordance with the regulations accompanying this policy.

Students granted permission to attend a school other than the school in their assigned attendance area shall have the same curricular and extracurricular status as all other students attending the school.

Students

School Attendance Areas (continued)

Transfer students attending a school outside their attendance area shall be granted admission on a year-to year basis. However, as previously stated, a student attending a school as part of a No Child Left Behind (NCLB) public choice program may remain in the choice school through the highest level in that school. In the event the population of the attendance area increases to fill the building with attendance area residents, transfer students may be asked to enroll in another school.

Transportation

Transportation for students granted permission to attend school outside their attendance area must be furnished by their parents.

Nondiscrimination

The Board, the Superintendent, other administrators and teachers shall not make any distinction on account of race, color, ethnic group, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity or expression or religion, of any student who may be in attendance or who seeks admission to any school maintained by the district in the determination or recommendation of action under this policy.

However, the Board reserves the right to restrict open enrollment and transfer requests if such requests begin to significantly affect the ethnic balance of a school.

Special Education Students

Requests from the parents (or guardian) of a special education student for open enrollment or transfer to another school or program shall be considered in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

(cf. 5117 – School Attendance Areas)

(cf. 5145.14 – On-Campus Recruitment)

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-55 Pupils to attend regional school

10-221e Intradistrict student assignment programs

10-226a Pupils of racial minorities

10-226b Existence of racial imbalance

10-226c Plan to correct imbalance

10-226d Approval of plan by State Board

PA 96-213 An Act Concerning School Readiness and Intra-district Choice

NCLB waiver granted to Connecticut by U.S. Department of Education,
May 2012

Section 1111(d)(1)(D) ESEA

Section 8532, ESEA as amended by the ESSA

P.A. 12-116 An Act Concerning Educational Reform

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