

Information about the School District of Choice Program

The law allows, but does not require, school districts to accept students from other districts under the *School District of Choice* program. The school district of choice determines the number of transfers it is willing to accept and ensures that students are selected through a random, unbiased process.

It is important to check with the school district of choice regarding its schools, programs, policies, and any additional application procedures.

How do I apply?

Applications are available from the school district of choice. Completed applications must be returned to the district office prior to January 1 for enrollment in the next school year, unless the district of residence and the district of choice have agreed to waive the timeline or the application is for a student whose parent/guardian is enlisted in the military and was relocated within 90 days of submitting the application.

When will I be notified?

The district will notify you by February 15 of the school year preceding the school year for which your child is requesting to be transferred whether the application has been provisionally accepted or rejected or if your child is placed on a waiting list. The district may fill vacancies from the waiting list until May 1. No pupils may be accepted at a school district of choice after May 1 preceding the school year for which your child is requesting to be transferred. If the application is being submitted under the military exception, the district of choice must notify you within 90 days of the final decision regarding your application.

How are students selected?

After determining the number of transfer students it is willing to accept, the district selects students through a random, unbiased process. Academic or athletic abilities are not evaluated. Students will also have to meet any entrance requirements for specialized schools or programs. Priority will be given to siblings of children already in attendance in the district, students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, children of military personnel, and children whose parent/guardian is employed by the school district of choice.

How am I assured of the specific school I request?

You may request a particular school, but the district makes the final determination as to which school your child will attend.

Can the district of choice reject the transfer?

The district of choice may reject the transfer if:

- (1) it would negatively impact any desegregation plan or racial and ethnic balance of the district
- (2) it requires the district to create a new program or provide a new service to meet the student's needs, with the exception of a student with disabilities or an English learner
- (3) it would cause a student who resides or is currently enrolled in the district to be displaced
- (4) the student has been expelled from another school district

Can my district of residence prohibit the transfer?

The district of residence may prohibit the transfer if it would negatively impact any desegregation plan or racial and ethnic balance of the district. The district may also limit the number of students transferring out each year.

Can I appeal a decision to reject the transfer?

There is no statutory right to appeal a rejection.

Is transportation provided to the school?

Upon request, the school district of choice may, but is not required to, provide your child transportation within the boundaries of the district to the extent that it is being provided to other students.

If my child is accepted, do I have to reapply each year?

The transfer will be renewed automatically each year unless the district withdraws from the *School District of Choice* program and no longer accepts transfer students. High school students, however, may continue until they graduate, even if the district withdraws.

Can the district of choice revoke the transfer?

The district of choice may revoke the transfer if your child is recommended for expulsion.