

5.12 STUDENT OUT OF ZONE TRANSFER/CHOICE

- I. The School Board strives to accommodate family choice to the maximum extent possible. Students may attend a school other than their zoned school if they have been granted a choice assignment in accordance with this policy. Disciplinary and/or attendance issues may result in a return to the home zoned school the following school year and/or may result in immediate return to the home zoned school. School choice is available for the following:
 - A. In-County Transfers
 - B. Controlled Open Enrollment
 - C. McKay, Family Empowerment, or Opportunity Scholarships
 - D. Home School
 - E. Virtual School
 - F. Dual Enrollment
 - G. Out-of-County Transfer
- II. The following provisions apply to all choice assignments:
 - A. The student must remain in the zoned school until a choice assignment is granted.
 - B. Applications for certain choice assignments must be submitted within the designated time frame. Time frames are published on the Board website by Date* for applications for the following school year.
 - C. With the exception of children of full-time Board employees who are nonresidents of the District, students whose primary legal residence is in the District shall be given preference over non-resident students with respect to the granting of choice assignment.
 - D. The Board does not provide transportation to students with choice assignments except as otherwise provided for in this policy or by law.
- III. In-County Transfer

The student and parent or guardian requesting a transfer within Nassau County to a school outside the attendance area to which the student is assigned must obtain the approval of both the sending principal and the receiving principal. The receiving principal's recommendation for approval of such a transfer will be based, in part, on available space at the school, comparing the current student enrollment to the number of students upon which the school's teaching staff was allocated. Such a transfer request then requires approval by the School Board. The student applying for such a

transfer shall not enroll or attend classes at the new school until the School Board has approved the transfer. However, while that application for transfer is pending, the principal of the school to which transfer is sought, may make a temporary school assignment so that the child may start school immediately, if needed, taking into consideration the safety and well-being of the student. Permission for the transfer can be revoked by the School Board.

IV. Controlled Open Enrollment

- A. Students may be granted choice assignments to schools that are not crowded and would not become crowded as a result of such assignments.
- B. The Board will establish a ninety percent (90%) capacity determination for each school, by grade level, in the District. The capacity determination will be identified on the school district's website and must be updated every 12 weeks. Schools having a projected enrollment of less than ninety percent (90%) of capacity for the following school year will be available for controlled open enrollment.
- C. Schools having a projected enrollment equal to or greater than ninety percent (90%) capacity will not be available for controlled open enrollment.
- D. Applications for controlled open enrollment will be submitted to the School on the Controlled Open Enrollment Form. The Superintendent will annually establish an application period for controlled open enrollment.
- E. The Office of the Assistant Superintendent will compile applications into lists by school of application.
 - 1. If the school's ninety percent (90%) capacity would not be exceeded by the number of choice applications when added to the projected school population, choice applicants for that school will be approved as in alignment with the Controlled Open Enrollment Plan.
 - 2. If the school's ninety percent (90%) capacity would be exceeded by the number of choice applications when added to the projected student population, admission will be granted first to students who have siblings in the chosen school, and all other available positions will be filled through a stratified lottery.
 - 3. Other priorities, once verified, applications for students meeting one or more of the priority criteria as described in this paragraph shall be granted priority to attend their first choice school if a seat is available. Applications with one or more of the priorities provided in this paragraph shall be separated from each group and placed in random order. Students who are eligible for priority preference include:
 - a. Dependent children of active-duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders;

- b. Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement;
- c. Children who have moved due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce;
- d. Children who have moved due to the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.
- e. Students at multiple session schools; and
- f. Students residing in the District.

F. Parents will be notified of the approval or denial of their student's application.

G. A student who is granted a choice assignment under Controlled Open Enrollment must register at the new school within ten (10) days of being notified or the choice assignment will be rescinded.

H. Students who are not selected to attend the school(s) to which they applied will be notified that the District will be unable to place them at a requested school and they must register at their zoned school. The student will be placed on a waiting list. The school capacity determination for each grade level must be updated every 12 weeks. If capacity becomes available at a grade level within a school, parent(s) of students placed on the waiting list will be notified of the opening and permitted to enroll throughout the school year.

I. Positions at a school that were assigned to a student under Controlled Open Enrollment will be monitored at the beginning of the school year. Students who have accepted assignments but who are not in attendance by the tenth (10th) day of school will have their assignments revoked. A revoked choice assignment may then be assigned to the next student on the waiting list.

V. McKay, Opportunity, and Empowerment Scholarships

Students with disabilities may be granted choice assignments to schools other than the school to which they are zoned under the provisions of the McKay Scholarship Program (F.S. 1002.39).

Students assigned to attend a school that has earned a grade of "F" or three consecutive grades of "D" may request and receive an Opportunity Scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend a public school that has been designated by the state as a school performing higher than that in which the student is currently enrolled. (F.S. 1002.38).

Students of families that have limited financial resources may request and receive a Family Empowerment Scholarship to attend a school different from the school to which the student was assigned. (F.S. 1002.394).

VI. Home School

Parents may elect to home school students in accordance with State Law.

VII. Virtual School

Parents may elect to register their students in a virtual education program.

VIII. Dual Enrollment

Details concerning enrollment in Dual Enrollment courses can be found in the High School Progression Plan.

IX. Out-of-County Transfers

The student and parent or guardian must apply at the School District office to the Superintendent or the designee for enrollment. The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of such a transfer will be based, in part, on available space at the school, comparing the current student enrollment to the number of students upon which the school's teaching staff was allocated. Such a transfer requires approval by the School Board. The student applying for such a transfer shall not enroll or attend classes until the School Board has approved the transfer. Permission for the transfer can be revoked by the School Board.

X. An in-county transfer to a school may continue, with the principal's approval, for the time during which a student remains in that school. Out-of-district transfer requests must be renewed annually.