

501.3.1 School Choice

Policy

Fair and just consideration shall be made for requests by parents/guardians to have their child(ren) enrolled in a school outside of their attendance area.

Regulations

1. Choice of schools shall normally be permitted only between school years or semesters (high school).
 - 1.1. Admission to Early Childhood Services programs shall be in accordance with Division policy 501.2.
2. Authority for approving admission of students from outside the school attendance areas shall rest with the principal.
 - 2.1. Decisions shall be based on established criteria, including:
 - 2.1.1. the availability of space;
 - 2.1.2. educational considerations, including class composition;
 - 2.1.3. projected enrolment for the school;
 - 2.1.4. suitability of school programs and services for that student;
 - 2.1.5. the student's priority of enrolment (see regulation 4); and
 - 2.1.6. additional costs to the school and/or Division.
 - 2.2. After consultation with the Director of Student Services, students with complex learning needs may be directed to a school other than the school in their attendance area.
 - 2.3. Decisions by the principal may be appealed to the Superintendent whose decision shall be final.
3. Students living in the attendance area will be admitted into the school.
4. If school enrolment is high in any given year, students will be given the following priority of enrolment:
 - 4.1. Division students with identified special needs who can best be served in that school;
 - 4.2. student currently attending from outside school attendance area;

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- 4.3. students from outside the attendance area who have siblings attending that school;
 - 4.4. students from outside the attendance area whose family needs or arrangements are special;
 - 4.5. students from outside the attendance area with none of the above considerations; and then
 - 4.6. students from outside the city of Lethbridge.
Where applicant numbers in any priority area exceed the number of available spaces in a school, the applications will be approved on a first come, first served basis.
5. The Division shall not be responsible for transportation or any costs associated with parents/guardians choosing to enroll their child(ren) in a school outside of their attendance area.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy

References

Alberta School Act:	13, 45(3)
Division Policies:	501.2 Eligibility for Early Childhood Services, 501.3 School Attendance Areas, 501.6 Resident Students, 501.7 Non-Resident Students, 505.9 Appeals, 602.1 Early Childhood Services
Forms:	501.3.1, 501.3.3, 501.3.4