

501.3.1 School Choice

Policy

Requests being made to attend a school outside of the designated attendance area is referred to as school choice. 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 in accordance with the regulations noted below.

Regulations

1. A student who resides in the attendance area for a school must be given priority over a student who does not reside in the attendance area.
2. Implementation of school choice shall normally be permitted between school years or semesters (high school), or when student programming requires.
 - 2.1. Admission to Early Childhood Services programs shall be in accordance with Division policy 501.2 Eligibility for Early Childhood Services.
3. Authority for approving admission of students from outside the school attendance area shall rest with the principal.
 - 3.1. Decisions shall be based on the following criteria:
 - 3.1.1. the capacity of resources;
 - 3.1.2. educational considerations, including suitability of school programs and services;
 - 3.1.3. projected enrolment for the school;
 - 3.1.4. the student's priority of enrolment (see regulation 4);
 - 3.2. After consultation with the Director of Inclusive Education, students with complex learning needs may access a program outside their attendance area.
 - 3.3. Decisions by the principal may be appealed per Policy and Procedure 505.9 Appeals Concerning Student Matters.

501.3.1 School Choice, cont'd...

4. If school resources are near capacity, thereby limiting additional enrollment, students outside the attendance area will be given the following priority of enrolment:
 - 4.1. Division students with complex needs who can best be served in that school;
 - 4.2. Division students currently attending from outside school attendance area;
 - 4.3. Division students from outside the attendance area who have siblings attending that school;
 - 4.4. Division students from outside the attendance area whose family needs or arrangements merit consideration;
 - 4.5. Division students from outside the attendance area with none of the above considerations; and then
 - 4.6. students from outside the Division's catchment area.

Where applicant numbers in any priority area exceed the capacity of resources in a school, the applications will typically 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

Education Act:	3, 4, 7, 10, 11
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