



POLICY

The Board establishes school attendance areas to identify the school that a resident student is designated to attend. In providing high quality learning opportunities for all students, the management of variables such as, but not limited to, facility utilization, transportation, future planning, staff resources, financial resources, technology resources, is necessary. The Board recognizes that parents may wish to register their child at a school outside of their attendance area and the review of this request is subject to a meeting with the resident school principal, the provision of appropriate resources, availability of facility space, and parent-provided transportation.

GUIDELINES

1. The Superintendent or designate may direct students to attend any school.
2. Attendance areas are not the same as ward boundaries, transportation service boundaries and boundaries defined by municipalities or other government bodies.
3. Attendance areas are developed by the Superintendent or designate, and approved by the Board.
4. Attendance areas will be adjusted as deemed necessary by the Board in order to:
 - 4.1 Integrate new facilities.
 - 4.2 Make educational programs more viable.
 - 4.3 Make more efficient use of school facilities.
 - 4.4 Make transportation of students more efficient.
5. Students will normally be expected to attend their designated school.
6. On an annual basis, parent(s)/guardian(s) may request that their child be enrolled in a school within the Division other than the school to which the student has been designated to attend. Annual acceptance may be provided if:
 - 6.1 The parent(s)/guardian(s) have had direct communication with the principal of the designated school to discuss reasons for requesting to attend a non-designated school in an effort to create a better understanding for school improvement
 - 6.2 There is sufficient facility space, personnel and resources in the school in which the parent(s)/guardian(s) wish to enroll their child (normally this means the school is operating at less than 85% of capacity); and
 - 6.3 The parent(s)/guardian(s) agree to transport their child to and from the school or make arrangements in accordance with policies EEAA and EEAB.
7. Out-of-attendance area requests, provided that 6.1 has been addressed, commence with the principal of the school the parent(s)/guardian(s) wishes their child to attend.



Approved: 1998 10 08

Amended: 2002 11 2
2012 02 02

Reviewed: xxxx

Approval is dependent upon the above-noted factors. If approved, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive a “permission to register” letter. If denied, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal.

8. The Superintendent may direct a student to attend a school other than the one designated, for:
 - 8.1 educational reasons: a strong rationale outlining why the resident school does not provide the student with adequate educational opportunities is required.
 - 8.2 social/emotional and/or psychological reasons. Medical documentation is required. The Superintendent may request an independent medical assessment.

If the Superintendent directs a student to a school other than the one designated, transportation will be provided.
9. As schools cannot provide all types of infrastructure for the flourishing of all students, programs should be complementary and provide for potential multiple school facility usage by a student. To this end, attendance areas do not necessarily preclude individual students from attending different facilities for portions of the school day to augment individual student programs.
10. The definition of attendance areas is the responsibility of the Superintendent as approved by the Board. Where possible, the Superintendent shall use a collaborative process to recommend the best possible decision to the Board of Trustees. A collaborative process may adhere to the following steps:
 - 10.1 Hold a public meeting to outline short and long term student accommodation challenges and discuss attendance area and new facility opening processes.
 - 10.2 Once draft boundaries are developed, engage the broader public, including affected school councils, to provide feedback and alternatives via the jurisdictional website.
 - 10.3 Consider the feedback to develop alternative proposals, if applicable, for Board consideration and eventual approval.

Legal Reference: ⇒ *School Act*, Sections 8, 13, 44, 45

Cross Reference:

- ⇒ RVS Policy:
- ⇒ BDED Student Placement Appeals
- ⇒ EEAA Transportation: Authorized Passengers
- ⇒ EEAB Transportation: Limits of Service
- ⇒ IFA Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters
- ⇒ JL Resolution of Public Concerns