



School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

Policy No. 5117

Effective: April 2013

Initial Adoption: February 2006

Preamble

The Board of Education has the legal duty, after considering the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools to assign students to various schools in the School District, and the power to divide the District into catchment areas for the purposes of assigning students to schools.

Policy

Students normally attend the schools designated by the Board of Education for their particular attendance area. For purposes of school attendance, a student's residence shall be considered to be that of his/her parents or legal guardian.

Under the *School Act*, every parent/guardian has the choice of registering their child in their neighbourhood school or any other educational program, subject to the ability of the school to provide an appropriate educational program for the student without adversely impacting the learning environment for the other students.

Regulations

A. General Regulations

1. Students will attend the closest elementary school in their community subject to there being adequate room available in their neighbourhood school.
2. Applications for students to attend a "School of Choice" outside their catchment area must be submitted to the Board for all students by no later than March 15th.
3. Parents/Guardians of students attending a "School of Choice" outside their catchment area wishing to transfer their child back to their catchment area school should notify the Board by no later than March 15th.

B. Schools of Choice Regulations for Registrations

The School of Choice Policy and Regulations will be available to parents and guardians on the District web site and/or a hard copy will be sent upon request. Parents and guardians who wish to register their child in a "School of Choice" outside their catchment area should fill in a request for transfer by no later than March 15th. When received by the District, all requests will be time and date stamped.

1. For September registration all applicants must be registered at their respective catchment school before submitting a School of Choice request.

2. Parent/Guardian may choose to register their child in schools outside their catchment area provided that:
 - a. Spaces allotted shall not exceed 95% of capacity in the receiving school in order to allow for the enrolment of students newly arrived to the catchment area. Class size requirements as set out in Bill 22 shall govern all placements. The status of registrants for early submissions will be confirmed by 15 days from date applications close. If space is not available at the receiving school, parents may request to be put on a waiting list. For those put on a waiting list, notification of status with respect to their school of choice cross boundary transfers will be completed by the second week of school in September. Students within the school catchment area have been given first priority for registration at the neighbourhood school. This includes students who reside within the boundaries of each school's attendance area as well as to students who were in attendance in the school the previous year for whatever reason. This will also include those students who wish to remain in the same school although their parents have taken up residence in another attendance area within the District.
 - b. Registrations at any school will be considered subject to the physical capacity for a receiving school and the class configuration suitability for a receiving school (as determined by the School District Office) have been determined. Decisions on cross boundary transfers will be confirmed by the end of the second week of school in September.

Consideration will be given to the following factors in approving/denying cross boundary transfers:

- i. the ability of the school to provide an appropriate educational program for the student without adversely impacting the learning environment for the other students
- ii. the operating capacity of the school as approved by the Ministry of Education
- iii. staff assigned to the school by the District
- iv. the physical space in which programs operate in the school
- v. the ability of the school to provide appropriate educational programs for the applicant and other students
- vi. the needs of other programs in the school

- vii. class size and school configuration considerations
 - viii. disruption of the school program or a significant reconfiguration of the designated school or the receiving school
 - c. Parents will assume responsibility for transportation, or any additional costs incurred by the school of choice registration.
 - d. If a student is a secondary student and wishes to play inter-school sports at their receiving school, then the new school is required to file an Athletic Eligibility Appeal on behalf of the student to the BC School Sports Eligibility Appeals Committee.
 - e. Once accepted in another school, the student becomes a student of that school for the duration of his/her elementary or secondary program.
 - f. Once granted a transfer, a student may not transfer to any other school for at least that school year or as provided for in section B.4 of these regulations.
- 3. School registration requests remaining after the date applications close, as outlined in the regulations, will be addressed by the Superintendent or designate by the end of the second week of school in September of each year. Copies of the Appeal Process will accompany all school of choice registration denials.

Considerations will be subject to:
 - i. Staff assigned to the school by the District
 - ii. Disruption of the school program or a significant reconfiguration of the designated school or the receiving school.
- 4. Student safety, health and educational programming is paramount. Notwithstanding the above regulations, and in the best interest of the student, the Superintendent of Schools, or designate, has the authority to approve a transfer request at any time.