



SARASOTA County Schools

Office of the Deputy Superintendent
1960 Landings Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34231
941-927-9000, ext. 31103 • fax 941-927-2539
SarasotaCountySchools.net

To: Board Members
Superintendent

From: Deputy Superintendent

Date: January 13, 2016

Subject: Read- Ahead, January 19, 2016 Workshop, Enrollment

Board Members,

As you know, we have some time on your January 19, 2016 Workshop to talk about Projected Student Enrollment. The goals of that discussion are really three-fold. First, the Deputy CFO will review current enrollment, enrollment predictions for the 2016/2017 school year as agreed upon between the Budget Office and school principals, and talk about the implications of those numbers. Data to support that discussion are at Tab 1. Second, we want to briefly review school capacities against those enrollment numbers to identify any areas of concern. The bottom line here is we believe we have the tools necessary to manage 2016/2017 enrollment within current capacities—especially when we bring the portables being freed up at Fruitville Elementary School into the conversation. Data to support that discussion are at Tabs 2 & 3. Tab 2 summarizes estimates of school capacities against their current and projected enrollment. Tab 3 is simply intended to give the Board additional information about where our students are choosing to attend and how Choice and Reassignment impact enrollment. Third, and finally, we want the Board to have an opportunity to talk about the attendance zone we commonly refer to as the Englewood inset; particularly as it relates to high school students.

This past year the Board heard from several citizens expressing concern that they live in Sarasota County but are districted to a Charlotte County school—in the case of high schools, Lemon Bay High School. There are roughly 213 high school students who live in this attendance zone. Today about 121 of those students attend Lemon Bay High School. Another 92 high school students attend one of our schools. The bulk of those, about 68, attend Venice High School. Another 12 attend Pine View School. The remainder are at charter schools, are home schooled, or are on a John McKay scholarship. At Tab 4 is a scatter plot of the 92 students who attend our schools. You can see that they come from throughout the inset area. As a review we've included the Board's policy on Student Assignment (Tab 5) and the latest version of our Student School Assignment, School Choice and Reassignment Procedures and Guidelines (Tab 6).

At this point we'd like to hear from you. Staff would like to address any questions you may have, pursue the collection of any additional data needs that may support your dialog, and ultimately get direction from the Board regarding this topic.

If you have any question or comments please feel free to call me at 927-9000, ext. 31103.

The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida
Student Enrollment for the Period 2013-2014 through 2020-2021

District Enrollment Summary of all Schools

School	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Elementary Schools								
Alta Vista	639	634	680	735	760	789	815	816
Ashton	835	896	922	930	984	1,029	1,097	1,111
Atwater	731	717	712	718	709	685	671	667
Bay Haven	597	591	602	594	600	608	605	600
Brentwood	640	669	720	728	735	740	745	738
Cranberry	756	792	772	766	756	743	751	733
Emma Booker	519	550	556	571	568	557	549	537
Englewood	492	523	541	546	551	554	559	543
Fruitville	773	762	748	745	730	711	696	698
Garden	612	649	595	588	584	570	574	571
Glenallen	673	689	699	705	710	713	717	724
Gocio	700	668	638	624	592	561	546	524
Gulf Gate	752	749	724	730	731	738	751	774
Lakeview	575	607	588	578	569	558	577	587
Lamarque	876	805	808	811	807	821	819	835
Phillippi	727	752	810	800	801	802	802	800
Southside	779	725	763	804	808	801	804	810
Tatum Ridge	696	669	658	656	657	657	660	675
Taylor Ranch	626	628	642	660	665	663	662	674
Toledo	747	741	722	717	715	717	700	707
Tuttle	680	703	695	708	718	715	710	705
Venice	601	592	585	586	591	605	603	611
Wilkinson	513	480	434	429	414	395	400	394
Total Elementary Schools	15,539	15,591	15,614	15,729	15,757	15,730	15,812	15,834

The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida

Student Enrollment for the Period 2013-2014 through 2020-2021

District Enrollment Summary of all Schools

School	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Middle Schools								
Booker	848	850	781	734	671	655	645	637
Brookside	820	816	833	820	806	810	824	837
Heron Creek	872	865	873	881	880	943	1,074	1,220
McIntosh	803	682	678	661	678	677	692	705
Sarasota	1,218	1,271	1,267	1,288	1,286	1,292	1,290	1,301
Venice	549	543	554	587	594	596	615	635
Woodland	832	858	859	881	910	889	895	902
Total Middle Schools	5,942	5,885	5,845	5,851	5,824	5,863	6,036	6,237
High Schools								
Booker	1,100	1,094	1,171	1,171	1,173	1,176	1,178	1,181
NorthPort	2,267	2,325	2,360	2,365	2,358	2,350	2,331	2,315
Riverview	2,560	2,492	2,491	2,489	2,450	2,456	2,439	2,453
Sarasota	2,016	2,129	2,086	2,067	2,014	2,008	2,015	2,047
Suncoast Polytechnical	528	541	570	577	591	589	576	573
Venice	1,909	1,953	2,113	2,115	2,132	2,130	2,142	2,206
Total High Schools	10,380	10,534	10,791	10,786	10,717	10,710	10,682	10,775
Other Schools								
Laurel Nokomis School	1,014	1,030	1,076	1,090	1,101	1,113	1,136	1,147
Contracted Virtual School	155	81	58	67	77	75	49	20
District Virtual School	53	53	53	58	64	70	77	85
Phoenix Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oak Park	333	345	301	327	329	331	333	335
Oak Park South	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESE Vouchers to Private Schools	362	359	374	389	389	389	389	389
Pineview	2,146	2,187	2,174	2,181	2,168	2,192	2,189	2,246
ESE Special Programs	46	54	67	47	47	47	47	47
Total Other Schools	4,161	4,109	4,103	4,159	4,175	4,216	4,220	4,269

The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida

Student Enrollment for the Period 2013-2014 through 2020-2021

District Enrollment Summary of all Schools

School	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Alternative Schools								
T.R.I.A.D.	93	103	86	103	107	107	107	107
Total Alternative Schools	93	103	86	103	107	107	107	107
Charter Schools								
Imagine Charter School at NorthPort	1,015	1,029	1,128	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175
Imagine Charter School at Palmer Ranch	565	431	436	465	482	499	519	541
Island Village Montessori	619	678	697	772	772	772	772	772
Sarasota Arts & Sciences	754	750	751	751	751	751	751	751
The Leadership Academy of Venice	315	285	311	311	311	311	311	311
Sarasota Academy of the Arts	202	207	209	222	222	222	222	222
Sarasota Military	1,056	1,096	1,017	1,074	1,074	1,074	1,074	1,074
Sarasota Military Prep	0	422	496	650	700	700	700	700
Suncoast Innovative Studies	423	420	429	400	400	400	400	400
Sarasota Suncoast Academy	486	499	503	536	536	536	536	536
Strength and Knowledge at the Y (Englewood)			96	184	250	310	350	350
Strength and Knowledge at the Y (Venice)	324	338	272	330	330	330	330	330
Total Charter Schools	5,759	6,155	6,345	6,870	7,004	7,080	7,140	7,162
Grand Total Pre K through Grade Twelve	41,874	42,377	42,784	43,498	43,584	43,707	43,998	44,385

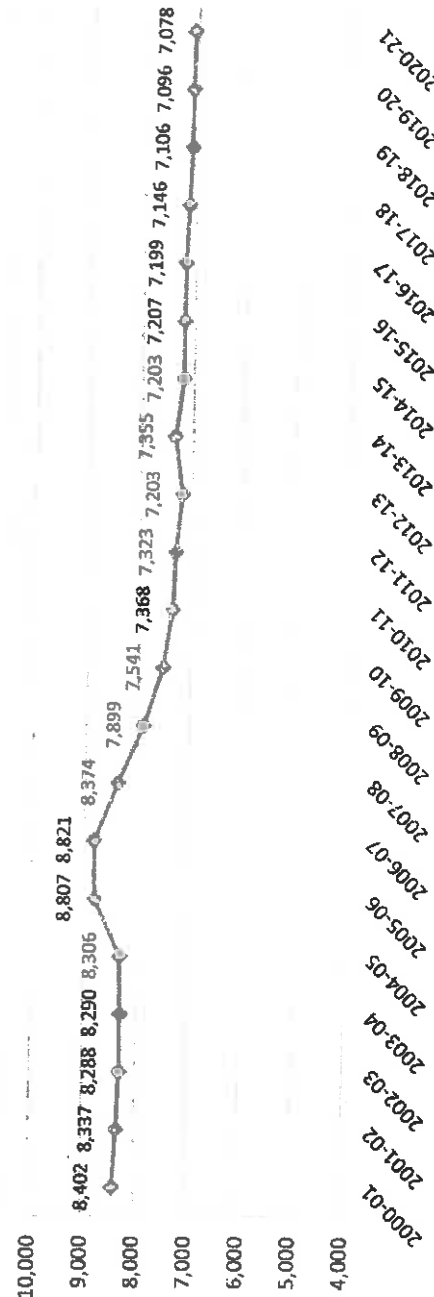
The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida

Student Enrollment for the Period 2013-2014 through 2020-2021

Historical and Projected Student enrollment by Grade level information (Based upon October of each school year)

North County District Schools (University Parkway to Bahia Vista Street)

Student Enrollment by Grade Level										
Grade Level	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021		
PreKindergarten	29	31	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Kindergarten	833	787	757	749	764	758	764	762	764	762
First	809	856	817	769	766	777	771	776	771	776
Second	819	771	800	790	745	742	753	753	753	753
Third	722	803	769	805	802	756	755	761	755	761
Fourth	686	655	741	756	769	772	738	730	738	730
Fifth	706	674	657	729	742	756	762	737	762	737
Sixth	529	462	465	445	447	449	450	452	450	452
Seventh	553	505	475	468	448	450	452	453	452	453
Eighth	569	565	519	481	454	433	436	438	436	438
Ninth	349	330	338	305	316	323	330	336	330	336
Tenth	265	316	328	321	295	299	306	313	306	313
Eleventh	260	232	294	301	302	283	282	288	282	288
Twelfth	226	216	211	244	260	271	260	244	260	244
Total by Grade	7,355	7,203	7,207	7,199	7,146	7,106	7,096	7,078	7,096	7,078



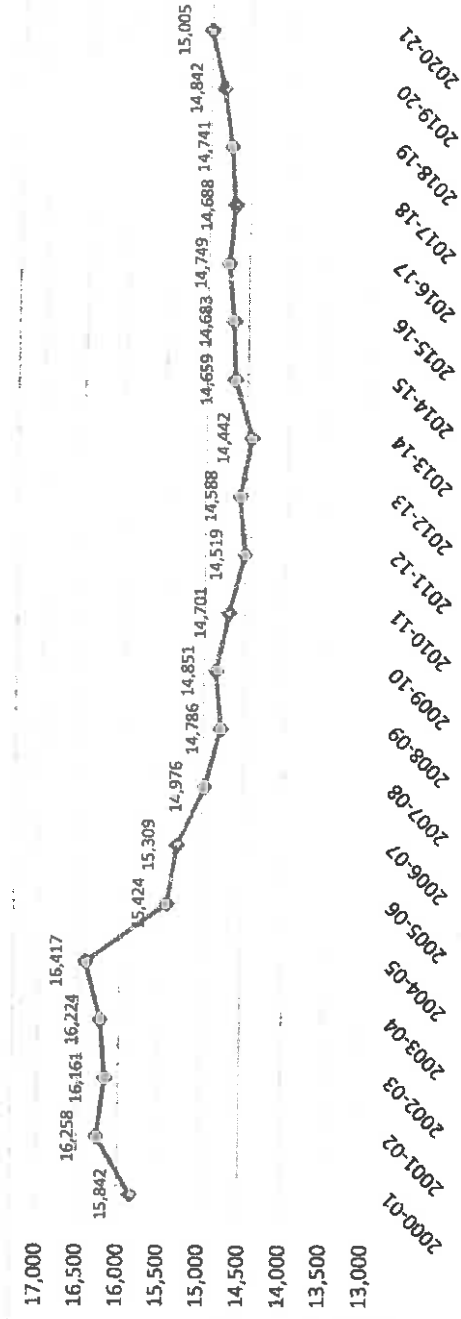
The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida

Student Enrollment for the Period 2013-2014 through 2020-2021

Historical and Projected Student enrollment by Grade level information (Based upon October of each school year)

Central County District Schools (Bahia Vista Street to Central Parkway)

Student Enrollment by Grade Level										
Grade Level	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021		
PreKindergarten	155	154	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
Kindergarten	738	746	760	776	818	839	856	862	856	862
First	807	782	831	781	818	833	856	873	856	873
Second	893	921	883	945	893	931	947	967	947	967
Third	937	981	991	963	1,037	981	1,026	1,041	1,026	1,041
Fourth	1,002	971	1,026	1,047	988	1,072	1,004	1,053	1,004	1,053
Fifth	990	1,017	1,014	1,064	1,084	1,026	1,117	1,045	1,117	1,045
Sixth	889	1,004	960	948	973	975	999	1,029	999	1,029
Seventh	979	902	1,028	1,000	980	989	986	1,015	986	1,015
Eighth	951	998	935	1,021	1,001	972	981	978	981	978
Ninth	1,646	1,569	1,633	1,509	1,552	1,570	1,563	1,585	1,563	1,585
Tenth	1,541	1,683	1,513	1,597	1,482	1,522	1,540	1,535	1,522	1,535
Eleventh	1,501	1,509	1,590	1,462	1,545	1,435	1,473	1,490	1,435	1,490
Twelfth	1,413	1,422	1,384	1,501	1,381	1,461	1,360	1,398	1,461	1,398
Total by Grade	14,442	14,659	14,683	14,749	14,688	14,741	14,842	15,005	14,842	15,005



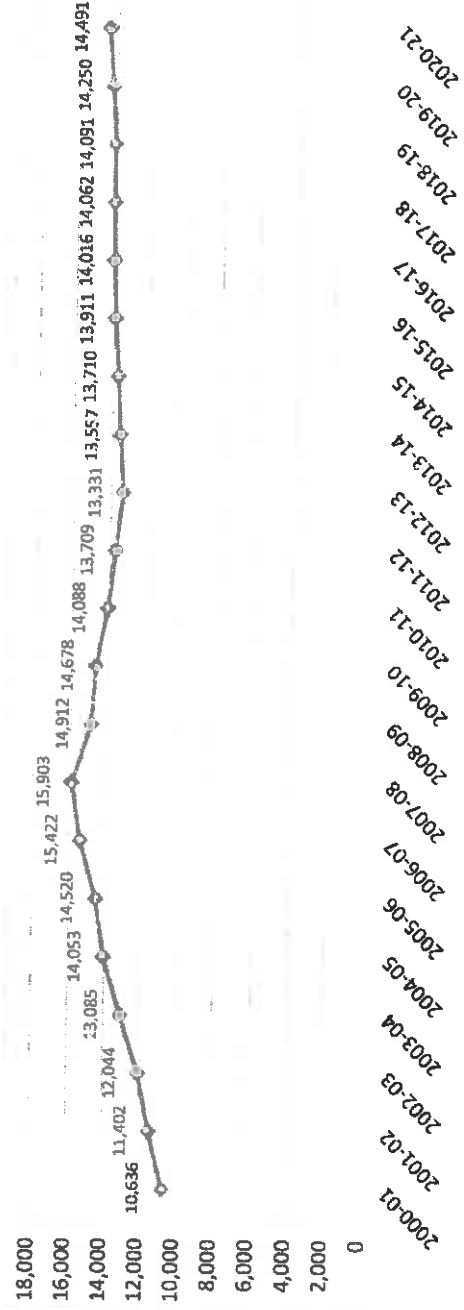
The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida

Student Enrollment for the Period 2013-2014 through 2020-2021

Historical and Projected Student enrollment by Grade level information (Based upon October of each school year)

South County District Schools (Englewood, Laurel, Nokomis, North Port, Venice)

Student Enrollment by Grade Level										
Grade Level	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021		
PreKindergarten	97	120	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Kindergarten	1,133	1,065	992	1,032	1,063	1,107	1,133	1,154	1,169	1,175
First	1,069	1,195	1,127	1,039	1,064	1,104	1,148	1,169	1,175	1,107
Second	1,086	1,062	1,143	1,106	1,017	1,046	1,086	1,125	1,107	1,054
Third	1,082	1,140	1,133	1,170	1,133	1,040	1,071	1,107	1,033	1,071
Fourth	1,089	1,052	1,107	1,149	1,164	1,117	1,021	1,054	1,033	1,071
Fifth	1,167	1,139	1,091	1,120	1,165	1,194	1,137	1,033	1,071	1,083
Sixth	837	862	932	885	937	969	1,054	1,071	1,083	1,055
Seventh	924	859	910	954	906	960	995	1,083	1,055	1,225
Eighth	904	949	884	962	1,005	954	1,013	1,055	1,225	1,171
Ninth	1,155	1,188	1,227	1,175	1,192	1,203	1,214	1,171	1,096	1,018
Tenth	1,090	1,105	1,178	1,183	1,132	1,149	1,160	1,171	1,018	14,491
Eleventh	936	1,052	1,045	1,106	1,117	1,069	1,085	1,096	1,018	14,491
Twelfth	988	922	1,012	1,006	1,038	1,049	1,003	1,018	1,018	14,491
Total by Grade	13,557	13,710	13,911	14,016	14,062	14,091	14,250	14,491	14,491	14,491



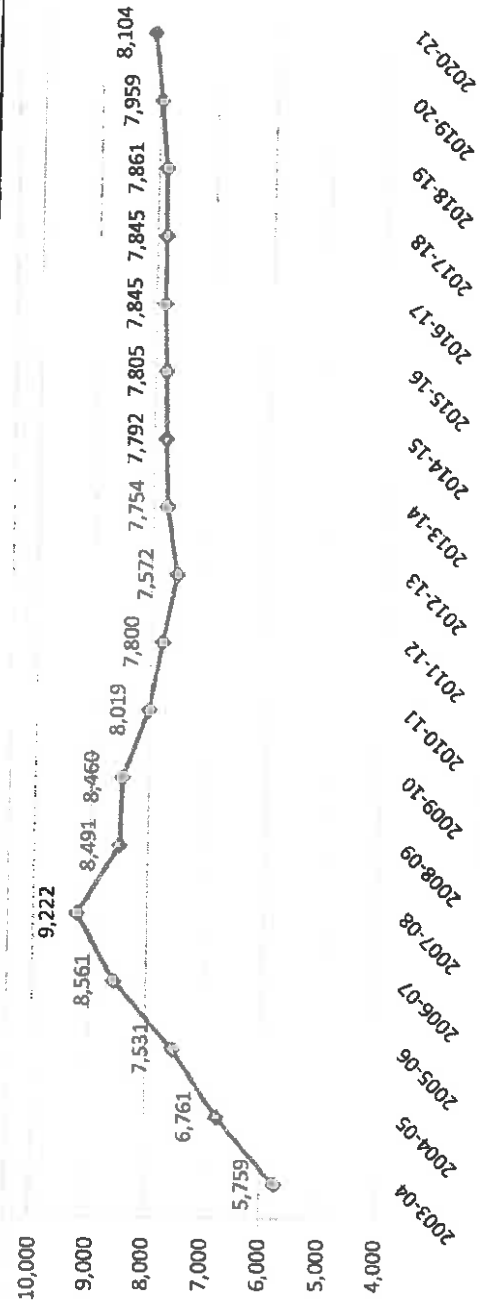
The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida

Student Enrollment for the Period 2013-2014 through 2020-2021

Historical and Projected Student enrollment by Grade level information (Based upon October of each school year)

North Port District Schools

Student Enrollment by Grade Level										
Grade Level	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021		
PreKindergarten	58	80	86	86	86	86	86	86	86	86
Kindergarten	638	570	542	559	568	596	609	614	614	614
First	620	667	625	576	582	600	629	636	636	636
Second	619	619	632	609	566	577	595	618	618	618
Third	616	635	646	645	618	574	586	599	599	599
Fourth	596	570	609	646	640	603	556	571	571	571
Fifth	643	614	584	607	648	654	609	553	553	553
Sixth	574	551	585	546	583	628	675	725	725	725
Seventh	563	587	570	602	563	601	649	698	698	698
Eighth	567	585	577	614	644	602	646	700	700	700
Ninth	630	639	648	640	639	633	628	623	623	623
Tenth	582	596	610	609	602	601	595	590	590	590
Eleventh	501	557	546	567	573	566	565	560	560	560
Twelfth	547	522	545	538	533	539	532	531	531	531
Total by Grade	7,754	7,792	7,805	7,845	7,845	7,861	7,959	8,104	8,104	8,104



School Capacity Analysis - January 18, 2016 Board Workshop

School	Capacity			Enrollment			Enrollment Capacity Ratios		Choice	
	Permanent Program Capacity	Portables Capacity	Total School Capacity	40 Day Enrollment	5 Yr Projection - 2016/17	Additional Portable Capacity	to Permanent Program Capacity	to Total Capacity	Open	Closed
Elementary Schools										
Alta Vista	682	0	682	680	735	X	100%	99.71%	X	
Ashton	601	256	857	922	930	X	153%	107.58%	K Only	Grades 1-5
Atwater	885	0	885	712	718		80%	80.45%	X	
Bay Haven	570	0	570	602	594		106%	105.61%	-	-
Brentwood	890	0	890	720	728		81%	80.90%	X	
Cranberry	701	196	897	772	766		110%	86.06%	X	
Emma Booker	657	72	729	556	571		85%	76.27%	X	
Englewood	538	54	592	541	546		101%	91.39%	X	
Fruitville	750	22	772	748	745		100%	96.89%	K Only	Grades 1-5
Garden	402	269	671	595	588		148%	88.67%	X	
Glenallen	774	90	864	699	705		90%	80.90%	X	
Gocio	491	485	976	638	624		130%	65.37%	X	
Gulf Gate	767	0	767	724	730		94%	94.39%	X	
Lakeview	499	292	791	588	578		118%	74.34%	X	
Lamarque	949	307	1,256	808	811		85%	64.33%	X	
Laurel - Nokomis ES	852	173	1,025	636	643		75%	62.05%	X	
Phillippi Shores	760	0	760	810	800		107%	106.58%	K Only	Grades 1-5
Southside	694	47	741	763	804		110%	102.97%	K and 1 Only	Grades 2-5
Tatum Ridge	668	96	764	658	656		99%	86.13%	K and 1 Only	Grades 2-5
Taylor Ranch	656	152	808	642	660		98%	79.46%		All Grades
Toledo Blade	711	134	845	722	717		102%	85.44%	X	
Tuttle	704	118	822	695	708		99%	84.55%	X	
Venice	650	18	668	585	586		90%	87.57%	K and 1 Only	Grades 2-5
Wilkinson	633	0	633	434	429		69%	68.56%	X	
Subtotal - Elem	16,484	2,781	19,265	16,250	16,372	0	99%	84.35%		

School	Capacity			Enrollment			Enrollment Capacity Ratios		Choice	
	Permanent Program Capacity	Portables Capacity	Total School Capacity	40 Day Enrollment	5 Yr Projection - 2016/17	Additional Portable Capacity	to Permanent Program Capacity	to Total Capacity	Open	Closed
	Middle Schools									
Booker	1,665	0	1,665	781	734		47%	46.91%	X	
Brookside	1,229	0	1,229	833	820		68%	67.78%	X	
Heron Creek	1,258	22	1,280	873	881		69%	68.20%	X	
Laurel - Nokomis MS	597	120	717	440	447		74%	61.37%	X	
Mcintosh	1,137	66	1,203	678	661		60%	56.36%	X	
Sarasota	1,130	110	1,240	1,267	1,288	X	112%	102.18%		X
Venice	816	418	1,234	554	587		68%	44.89%	X	
Woodland	1,297	0	1,297	859	881		66%	66.23%	X	
Subtotal - Middle	9,129	736	9,865	6,285	6,299	0	69%	63.71%		
	High Schools									
	Permanent Program Capacity	Portables Capacity	Total School Capacity	40 Day Enrollment	5 Yr Projection - 2016/17	Additional Portable Capacity	to Permanent Program Capacity	to Total Capacity	Open	Closed
	High Schools									
Booker	1,549	0	1,549	1,171	1,171		76%	75.60%	X	
North Port	2,757	50	2,807	2,360	2,365		86%	84.08%	X	
Pineview (2-12)	1,611	574	2,185	2,174	2,181		135%	99.50%	-	
Riverview	2,567	0	2,567	2,491	2,489		97%	97.04%	X	
Sarasota	2,969	125	3,094	2,086	2,067		70%	67.42%	X	
Venice	2,302	0	2,302	2,113	2,115		92%	91.79%	X	
Subtotal - High	13,755	749	14,504	12,395	12,388		90%	85.46%		
Grand Total - All Schools	39,368	4,266	43,634	34,930	35,059		89%	80.05%		

2015-2016 SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS

Data Presented by School - Alpha

District K-12 Schools

SCHOOLS	CHOICE		REASSIGNMENT		CHARTER SCHOOLS & VIRTUAL SCHOOL	HOME SCHOOL	JOHN MCKAY	SPECIAL SCHOOLS*
	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing				
ALTA VISTA ELEMENTARY	36	-21	19	-43	102	8	5	65
ASHTON ELEMENTARY (GR 1-5)	5	-8	32	-6	88	10	10	53
ATWATER ELEMENTARY	3	-19	34	-42	135	18	1	17
BOOKER HIGH SCHOOL	16	-27	89	-70	256	90	20	179
BOOKER MIDDLE SCHOOL	2	-44	65	-46	540	34	18	87
BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY	16	-26	25	-45	118	13	6	44
BROOKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL	25	-9	21	-42	727	36	24	183
CHARLOTTE COUNTY	7	0	339	-181	247	12	10	36
CRANBERRY ELEMENTARY	11	-8	48	-14	83	17	1	8
DESOTO COUNTY	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	0
EMMA E. BOOKER ELEMENTARY	12	-42	65	-132	112	14	9	195
ENGLEWOOD ELEMENTARY	2	-6	116	-13	5	8	2	17
FRUITVILLE ELEMENTARY (GR 1-5)	50	-8	17	-20	44	11	2	25
GARDEN ELEMENTARY	15	-30	25	-19	58	8	2	17
GLENALLEN ELEMENTARY	12	-7	21	-31	66	10	2	17
GOCIO ELEMENTARY	17	-41	35	-58	119	8	11	93
GULF GATE ELEMENTARY	17	-18	13	-16	107	10	5	39
HERON CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL	9	-18	21	-29	232	24	7	42
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY	16	-10	12	-17	132	7	4	52
LAMARQUE ELEMENTARY	6	-41	25	-33	164	14	3	21
LAUREL NOKOMIS SCHOOL	45	-30	47	-25	191	24	10	238
MANATEE COUNTY	0	0	273	-79	422	0	0	61
MCINTOSH MIDDLE SCHOOL	34	-6	42	-37	293	43	24	91
NORTH PORT HIGH SCHOOL	5	-17	23	-94	289	112	10	166
PHILLIPPI SHORES ELEMENTARY (GR 1-5)	0	-11	15	-28	54	5	5	69
RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL	25	-10	100	-41	163	75	25	399
SARASOTA HIGH SCHOOL	25	-29	95	-107	250	104	36	420
SARASOTA MIDDLE SCHOOL	0	-7	25	-11	165	18	21	150
SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY (GR 2-5)	48	-7	26	-4	16	8	8	49
TATUM RIDGE ELEMENTARY R (GR 2-5)	21	-1	39	-9	52	28	12	38

2015-2016 SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS

District K-12 Schools

Data Presented by School - Alpha

SCHOOLS	CHOICE		REASSIGNMENT		CHARTER SCHOOLS & VIRTUAL SCHOOL	HOME SCHOOL	JOHN MCKAY	SPECIAL SCHOOLS*
	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing				
TAYLOR RANCH ELEMENTARY	0	-29	16	-16	43	24	3	25
TOLEDO BLADE ELEMENTARY	43	-8	27	-22	100	9	4	21
TUTTLE ELEMENTARY	18	-31	43	-30	94	6	5	60
VENICE ELEMENTARY (GR 2-5)	57	-4	17	-9	17	2	2	13
VENICE HIGH SCHOOL	25	-7	54	-21	86	56	14	351
VENICE MIDDLE SCHOOL	19	-13	46	-25	398	33	3	74
WILKINSON ELEMENTARY	6	-42	24	-35	107	5	6	45
WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL	7	-10	27	-31	246	46	9	43
TOTAL (ALL)	655	-645	1964	-1481	6329	950	339	3503

NOTES:

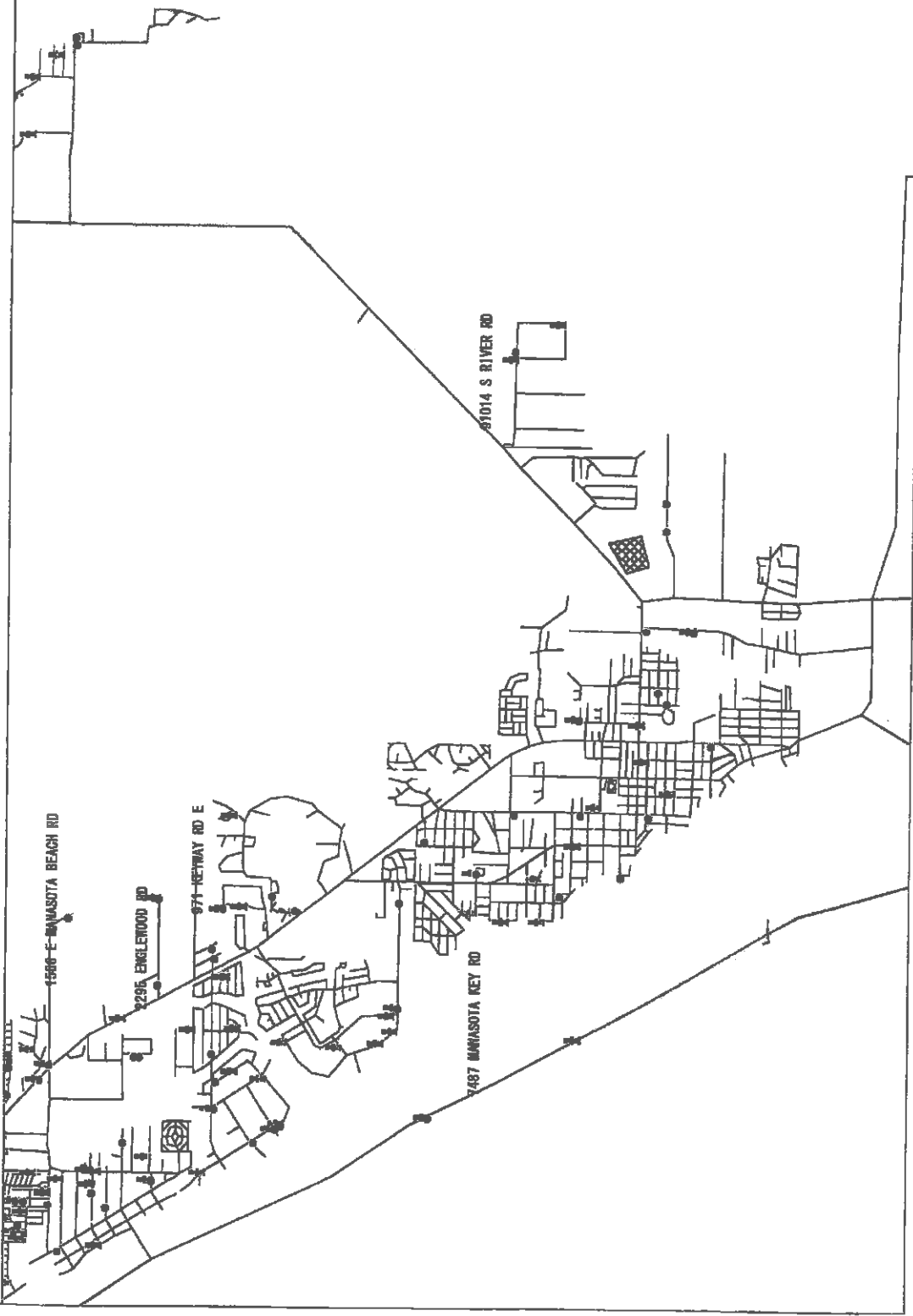
Schools or grade levels closed to Choice are highlighted in RED

Reassignments- Incoming data indicate the number of students living outside Sarasota County and attending a District School

Reassignments- Outgoing data indicate the number of students living in Sarasota County and attending school outside the District

*Special Schools are Oak Park, Pine View, Bay Haven School Basics Plus, Suncoast Polytechnical High School

Students in Lemon Bay High Attendance Zone that attend Sarasota Schools



CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

5.20+

- I. The School Board is committed to providing quality educational opportunities for all students regardless of background characteristics by providing each student an educational environment that enhances that individual's educational success. The School Board also is committed to encouraging all parents, as defined by Florida Statutes, to play an active role in their children's education and to increasing the educational choices available to parents and students in the public schools. The School Board further is committed to educational settings that promote understanding of diversity, tolerance, fair play, and the positive tenets of our democracy so that students may be successful citizens in our pluralistic society.

The School Board supports the establishment of a diverse array of schools and programs as tools for achieving these goals for three major reasons:

- A. The School Board believes that all schools and programs should promote educational excellence and offer students with different interests, talents, and aptitudes distinct choices that may enhance their educational success.
 - B. The School Board believes that all schools and programs should be used to develop innovative instructional practices and promote systemic reform.
 - C. A variety of schools and programs are tools for the promotion of diversity.
- II. The School Board shall establish residential attendance zones for each school. All students, unless otherwise provided by School Board rule or authorized by the School Board's order, shall attend the school serving the student's residential attendance zone. A student's residence is defined as the residence of his/her parent(s). Any student residing in the School District shall be assigned to a school for attendance by the Superintendent or designee.
 - A. No student shall be permitted to transfer, enroll, or be admitted to a school when he/she has been expelled from another school district. This prohibition shall be effective for the period of time in which the student was expelled from another district. Such students shall be accorded the same appeals procedure which is available to District students.
 - B. A student may be permitted to attend a school in another residential attendance zone pursuant to student reassignment guidelines adopted by the School Board when he or she meets the circumstances for attending a non-districted school. Student reassignments shall be granted based on the requested non districted school having physical and programmatic available space. Guidelines shall be issued annually.
 - C. Controlled Open Enrollment is an educational Choice that allows the district to make student school assignments using parents' and legal guardians' preferential school choice selections as a significant factor. Pursuant to F.S. 1002.31, a student residing in Sarasota County may be permitted to attend a school in another residential attendance zone using Controlled Open

CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

Enrollment (Regular School Choice) and the Choice guidelines adopted by the School Board. Guidelines shall be issued annually.

- D. Students who are residents of Sarasota *and* impacted by the Student Exchange and Transportation Agreement between the School Board of Sarasota County and Charlotte County School Board may participate in the District's Controlled Open Enrollment (Regular School Choice) cycle.
- E. Students who attend a special school (Pine View or Suncoast Polytechnical High School) may annually designate a Choice school for the purpose of participating in Interscholastic Athletic Programs sanctioned by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). Guidelines shall be issued annually. Students who participate in athletics shall meet eligibility requirements established by FHSAA and the School Board.
- F. If for any reason a student leaves a Choice school or academic program prior to completing the highest grade level within that particular school or academic program, he or she will be required to return to his or her assigned District school. A Choice school or program includes a charter school, virtual school, home school, magnet school, magnet program or special school.
- G. In accordance with Florida Statute 1006.15, eligible students who are attending a charter school, virtual school, or home school may participate in athletics and extracurricular activities at his or her assigned District school. Students who participate in athletics shall meet eligibility requirements established by Florida High School Athletic Association, Inc. (FHSAA) and the School Board (Policy 5.80). All students shall be subject to all School Board rules and to the Code of Student Conduct while attending athletic events and practices.
- H. Any student whose legal residence is outside the boundaries of the County may not be enrolled in any District school without the approval of the School Board, except under the provisions of Florida Statutes.
- I. No student shall be permitted to cross district lines for the purpose of attending school in the School District or outside the School District, except under a written agreement as provided in Florida Statutes. Any such agreement between the School Board and any other Florida school district shall be duly recorded in the official School Board minutes.
 - 1. The assigned school for an out-of-district student shall be designated on the basis of space available. Such assignment shall not occur after the February FTE (full time equivalency) count, except under the provisions of the contract with another District school system or upon recommendation of the Superintendent and approval of the School Board.
 - 2. The Board shall specify conditions for admitting students from other Florida school districts.
- J. A student eighteen years of age or older who has interrupted his or her education and who subsequently desires to enter Sarasota County Public

CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

Schools shall physically enroll either in the adult day school or an adult evening school. The student may not enroll in a regular high school. In extenuating circumstances, a principal may recommend an exception to this policy to the Executive Director of High Schools.

- K. Students may not be enrolled in a regular high school for more than 10 semesters, unless the principal approves the enrollment beyond 10 semesters. The principal will consider the reason the student wants to continue high school, the educational progress to date, and the commitment to education. Semesters begin when the student first enrolls in ninth grade in any public or private school.
- L. Students may not enroll in a regular high school if they cannot earn the number of required credits to graduate by their 20th birthday, unless enrollment is approved by the principal.
- M. For students with disabilities who have not graduated with a standard diploma, the district will provide services until the end of the school year in which the student turns 22 years old.
- N. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to assign a student to any program or school as deemed to be in the best interest of the student or school district.

- III. The purpose of this policy shall be to establish the School Board's expectations when it becomes necessary to reorganize the school district's school attendance boundary lines. The changing of school attendance boundary lines may be necessary due to growth, change or shift in the distribution of student population, the construction of a new school, or any other occurrence which takes place in the community which makes it necessary to redistribute the student enrollment population to assure the most appropriate housing of students within the district's operating school buildings.

The School Board remains committed to the establishment and operation of school attendance boundaries which assure availability of program, staff and facilities to meet student educational needs and to assure wise and prudent use of staff, facilities and finances. In so doing, however, it may be necessary, from time to time, to call for the redrawing of attendance boundary lines of specific school attendance areas, or even system-wide, to capture the most efficient educational and economical benefit to students, parents, taxpayers and the community.

On the occasion when such action is deemed necessary, the School Board and the Administration will be guided by the following standards of expectation:

- A. No later than the first Board meeting in December of each school year, the Superintendent shall determine whether there is a need for any new or revised attendance boundaries based on the facility being over-crowded or under-utilized or because the District is opening a new school.
- B. Where the Superintendent has identified the need for a boundary change, the District shall form a Boundary Advisory Committee to assist in the

CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

development of proposed changes. The Office of Planning will organize and work directly with this group. The Boundary Advisory Committee shall be formed with the following membership:

- Director of Planning,
- Principal of each affected school,
- School Advisory Committee (“SAC”) Chair* from each school potentially affected by the boundary changes,
- Four (4) parent representatives from different geographic areas from each school (selected jointly by the SAC Chair and principal), and
- A teacher from each school selected jointly by school administration and the Sarasota Classified/Teacher Association (SCTA).

- * If the SAC chair is a teacher, this will be the teacher representative; if the chair is a parent, this will represent one parent member from that school.

C. When drawing attendance boundaries, the School Board will use the following guidelines whenever possible:

- Attendance areas will be designed to incorporate entire neighborhoods, keeping neighboring children together and contributing to an efficient, effective and economic transportation configuration.
- Redistricting shall strive to assure that schools are left with a capacity that allows for growth from new neighborhoods.
- Every attempt will be made to move the minimum number of students necessary to accomplish the goal, and to try to minimize the number of families affected by redistricting.
- Every effort will be made to not require the moving of students who were moved due to previous redistricting. However, in the event such students must be relocated, they shall, upon request, be given priority consideration for out of designated attendance area placement.
- When attendance boundaries are changed, elementary and secondary students with one (1) year remaining in their present school will have the option of remaining at that school. This shall not automatically entitle the student to district transportation. When considering attendance boundary adjustments, the Board by its own discretion may extend the option to other students with more than one (1) year remaining.
- The Boundary Advisory Committee in order to create fair and equitable attendance zones and enrollments may develop additional criteria.

CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: 1000.21, 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.43,
1001.51, 1002.31, 1002.38, F.S.

HISTORY: ADOPTED: 08/21/01
REVISION DATE(S): 01/08/02, 04/06/04, 01/29/07, 03/30/10, 7/24/12, 01/05/16
FORMERLY: 2.124, 7.102

NOTES:



Office of School Choice, Charter Schools and Virtual School

STUDENT SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT, SCHOOL CHOICE AND REASSIGNMENT

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Student assignment in the district occurs under the direction of School Board Policy 5.20. The Office of School Choice, Charter Schools and Virtual School in the Integrated Instructional Services Department is responsible for carrying out activities related to this policy. Any student residing in the district shall be assigned to a school for attendance by the Superintendent or designee. All students, unless otherwise provided by school board rule or authorized by the School Board, shall attend the school serving their residential attendance zone. No student whose legal residence is outside the boundaries of the County may be enrolled in any district school without the approval of the School Board, except under the provisions of Florida Statutes. A student's residence is defined as the residence/domicile of his/her parent(s), legal guardian, or other such person as defined by any order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction. The domicile is defined as the place in which a student physically lives, sleeps and functions full time during the school year. If divorced parents have joint custody of a child, they must use one address as the legal residence for enrollment purposes.

A. Establishment of Official Residence

Acceptable forms for providing proof of residency include a/an:

- Electric or water bill showing (1) the residence as the service address; (2) name of the parent/guardian; and (3) current date;
- Current signed lease agreement with parent/guardian name;
- Official letter from a company providing housing with a parent/guardian name; or
- Sworn notarized statement from an owner/lessee of the home in which a parent/guardian is living, stating the names of all people residing at the address and a current utility bill with the owner/lessee's name.

B. Falsification of Information

Fair and equitable implementation of student assignments depends on complete and honest compliance with process guidelines. Providing false or misleading information on registration forms, student reassignment applications and/or Choice applications with the intent to circumvent established procedures or to unfairly gain advantage over other applicants is considered a serious offense. Upon information or belief that a student has been assigned to or enrolled in a particular school based upon inaccurate, false or misleading information, the school shall initiate an investigation of the student's assignment. The investigation may include on-site visits to the address of record, testimony from knowledgeable individuals, evidence of returned mail, or other processes to determine the legitimacy of a residence. The results of the investigation will be used to determine the school's action related to the residency question.

If false or misleading information has resulted in an improper assignment, or if a student is found to be inappropriately attending a school without an approved transfer or reassignment, the student shall be withdrawn from the assigned school and transferred (without regard to parental preference) to their districted school. Such involuntary transfer shall not preclude any other remedy provided by law and School Board policy. Refusal to attend the assigned school shall constitute violation of the compulsory school attendance law.

The parent or guardian of the student, or the student if of legal age, shall be responsible for any consequences affecting the eligibility of the student for participation in extracurricular activities pursuant to rules of the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSA). The rules of the FHSA shall prevail in any event.

C. General Assignment Process

All schools will have a geographic definition establishing their attendance area. All students residing within a particular attendance area shall attend that school (referred to as the assigned or districted school) unless the student:

- Applies for and is granted a reassignment due to (1) a hardship resulting from a severe and extenuating circumstance; or (2) a change in the location of his or her residence,
- Is placed elsewhere to meet the requirements of an Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Is placed administratively into an alternative program; or
- Receives an assignment through one of the Choice processes.

Each spring, many students are eligible for a variety of placements for the following school year, including their districted school, a Choice school, a magnet school/program or the full-time virtual school. Parents of these students must make a final decision regarding their child's placement for the following school year by a date set by the Superintendent. Changes after that date, even to a student's districted school, shall necessitate following the reassignment process. When a student withdraws from the district's full-time virtual school, home school, a magnet school/program, a Choice school, charter school or a school/program outside the district, he or she is required to attend the districted school assigned to his or her residence. The parent/guardian shall follow the reassignment process to request an assignment to the school in which the student was enrolled prior to the withdrawal. A reassignment is not guaranteed but may be granted, depending upon the enrollment limits of the school, grade and applicable program.

All students currently enrolled in their districted school and all students granted an assignment or reassignment through this document may continue to the highest grade level offered in their assigned school until:

- The student is returned to the school serving his/her attendance area for failure to abide by an agreement concerning attendance expectations, behavior expectations, and parent involvement/ cooperation.
- The student is enrolled in a program which requires a change of schools.
- The parent or guardian requests a change of assignment.
- The student is expelled.
- The student leaves that public school to attend a private school, charter school, or home education program.
- The student moves out of the Sarasota County school district or moves to another residence which would affect assignment.
- The School Board district school boundaries are changed; or
- It is determined that inaccurate, false, or misleading information resulted in an improper assignment or reassignment.

Prior to making student assignments for each school year, the Superintendent will evaluate the enrollment limit for each school and grade level. This decision is based upon factors including, but not limited to, the physical capacity of the school, seats set aside for special programs (e.g., ESOL and ESE students, magnet programs) utilization of cafeteria, and seats set aside for projected growth.

D. Student Registration Procedures

Registration may take place at individual schools and, occasionally, at other sites as established by the Superintendent. Registration periods shall be established for specific grade levels as discussed below;

- Students new to Sarasota County Schools, and those entering kindergarten must verify their residence within the district in accordance with the guidelines as set forth in the district procedures.
- At the time of application and again at enrollment, kindergarten students and all students new to the district, must verify their birth date in compliance with the state requirements for admission.

- Registration with the district will generate or reactivate a student number for each student. After registration, in order to be enrolled at the assigned school, the student must physically appear at the assigned school. Students who are new to the district must complete a registration form, present a certificate of immunization, and verification of a physical examination.
- The name of the student shall be spelled exactly as it appears on the birth certificate or on a court order designating a name change.

When a student has been assigned to a school, it becomes the responsibility of the assigned school to complete the registration process and to schedule the student for classes. It will be the responsibility of the assigned school to report those students who failed to enroll in an assigned school. The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools, other district personnel or members of school-based administration may not assign a student to a school without following the established procedures.

E. Change of Residence During the School Year

All students changing residences during the school year should notify their current school and supply proof of the new address. The rules regarding change of residence are:

- A student who moves within the districted school's attendance zone must remain at that school.
- A student moving out of the districted school's attendance zone may:
 - Attend the new districted school based upon proof of the new legal residence; or
 - Remain at the current school for the remainder of the year through the reassignment process described in this document. Students who receive a reassignment to remain at the current school may choose to remain there through the highest grade level in the school unless they receive a placement elsewhere, or the school is determined to be over capacity, in which case the parent will be notified of the assignment options.
 - Transportation to the current school under reassignment is not provided for any students changing residences during the school year.
- All schools shall ensure that families are notified of the rules in this section.

F. Students who Reside Out of County

Any Florida student who resides outside of Sarasota County who wishes to attend Sarasota County Schools must have permission from both the school district of their residence and Sarasota County Schools. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to give the permission and make a school assignment. All funding generated by the student's enrollment shall be reported and retained by Sarasota County Schools for the provision of instruction, transportation and other services. Students must annually make application to attend a Sarasota district school. Any student who receives permission prior to the start of the school year will be granted permission for the upcoming school year only. Any student receiving permission to attend after the first day of school will be granted permission to complete the current school year only.

Failure to abide by an agreement concerning attendance expectations, behavior expectations and/or parent involvement/cooperation will result in the student being returned to the school serving his/her attendance area. The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools, other district personnel or members of school-based administration may not assign a student to a school without following the established procedures.

G. School Attendance in a Neighboring County

Students residing in Sarasota County who wish to attend a school in a neighboring county must first apply with Sarasota County Schools by completing an Out-of-County Reassignment Application. Students must have permission from both the Sarasota County Schools and the school district they wish to attend. All funding generated by the student's enrollment shall be reported and retained by the county in which the student attends. The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools, other district personnel or members of school-

based administration may not assign a student to a school without following the established procedures.

H. School Choice Options

Parents in Sarasota County Schools have many options to participate in their child's placement in schools and programs. Some placements are made at individual schools and some through district-wide processes. All schools are responsible for helping to inform parents of the various options available to them and for assisting them with processes associated with selecting options. Available Choice options, procedures and guidelines are explained below:

1) Controlled Open Enrollment (Regular School Choice)

Controlled Open Enrollment is an educational Choice that allows the district to make student school assignments using parents and legal guardians' preferential school choice selections as a significant factor. The extent to which Controlled Open Enrollment (often called Regular School Choice) will be utilized is determined each year by the School Board through a recommendation of the Superintendent. The district will make diligent effort to inform all parents of the options available. The district may use newsletters, media announcements, newspaper and radio advertising, church bulletins and announcements, civic and business organizations, childcare centers and other governmental agencies. The following guidelines are used to conduct Controlled Open Enrollment:

- a) The Superintendent may establish one or more Controlled Open Enrollment application period. Additional application periods may be established if needed.
- b) The specified Controlled Open Enrollment application period and timeline will be announced each school year by the Supervisor of the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools. Typically an application period will last for three (3) weeks unless specified otherwise, and Choice assignments are awarded after the close of each application period. Choice assignments shall occur in the next academic year.
- c) Regular School choice will be offered to residents of Sarasota County, including those who are impacted by the Student Exchange and Transportation Agreement between Sarasota County Schools and Charlotte County School Board.
- d) Schools that are open to Choice will be identified along with schools that have limited or no available space. The number of available seats may vary by school.
- e) Parents/Guardians will be able to obtain and complete an application for Regular School Choice at any district school or at the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools. Parents/Guardians may select up to three (3) Choice schools in their preference order. All completed School Choice applications must be submitted to this office by the specified due date. Incomplete applications shall not be processed.
- f) A random lottery will be used in situations where there are more requests than available seats. All completed Choice applications shall be processed and eligible for the random lottery and school placement. Choice assignments will be awarded based upon seat availability.
- g) To ensure equitable access for all parents living in Sarasota County, no application shall receive any advantage based on the date of its filing within the application window.
- h) For purposes of the Choice process, siblings are defined as a brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, step brother, or step sister. The sibling preference will be given to children whose sibling is already assigned to the school and who will be attending during the year for which the application is made. Siblings must be residing at the same address in order to qualify for this sibling preference. Siblings who receive preference in the random lottery are not guaranteed a Choice placement at a school determined to be over-capacity.

- i) Seats that are available for Regular School Choice at a particular school are first awarded in random order by lottery to applications with a verified sibling preference. Students residing in Sarasota County affected by the Student Exchange and Transportation Agreement between the School Board of Sarasota County and Charlotte County School Board will be given a proximity preference. If seats remain, Choice assignments shall be made in random order by lottery until all students are assigned or until no seats remain at the school and available grade levels.
 - j) Applications shall then be sorted by second Choice school and grade level. Seats that are available for Regular School Choice shall be awarded in random order by lottery until all students are assigned or until no seats remain at the school and available grade levels. A similar random lottery process will continue to select students' third Choice school.
 - k) In the event that a student cannot be accommodated at his or her first, second, or third choice school, the student shall be assigned to the districted school and the student's name automatically will be placed into an eligibility pool (waiting list) for possible transfer to the first Choice school. If and when seats in the particular grade become available, the parent of the student at the top of the waiting list will be contacted and offered the Choice seat. Waiting lists shall be maintained in order, beginning with the original assignment waiting list.
 - l) Parents/Guardians and students will be notified by mail through the U.S. Postal Service of the action on the application. If a Choice assignment is awarded through the lottery process, parents will be given sufficient time to accept their assignment in accordance with this process.
 - m) Parents/Guardians must acknowledge their acceptance of the school choice assignment no later than the date specified in the Choice Acceptance Letter. Parents/Guardians are required to return the Acceptance Card acknowledging acceptance of the Choice assignment and that they are aware the student must begin attending classes at the assigned school by no later than the third day of school. Failure to return the Acceptance Card will forfeit the Choice assignment and the student will remain at his/her districted school. All forfeited Choice seats will be filled by the next student on the waiting list.
 - n) At the beginning of the school year, schools will remove from their rosters any Choice students who have not enrolled. These vacancies will be filled by applicants on the waiting list in accordance with factors described in this document. Students on the waiting list who decline an available seat shall have their name removed from the waiting list and the seat shall be offered to the next student on the waiting list. This process will continue until all students are assigned or until no seats remain at the school and grade level. All waiting lists shall be cleared by the fifth (5th) day of school.
 - o) Each student may receive only one Choice transfer for a particular school year during the specified Controlled Open Enrollment application period. Students may change schools only based on a change of residence or participation in an alternative/special program requiring a change. Parents experiencing severe and extenuating circumstances that require a possible change in schools, the student may request a hardship reassignment but no assurance is given that the request will be granted.
 - p) Transportation will not be provided to students receiving Regular School Choice assignments through Controlled Open Enrollment.
- 2) **Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation)**
 Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) recognizes Pine View School and Suncoast Polytechnical High School (SPHS) as special schools because they do not sponsor any high school level interscholastic athletic programs. FHSAA guidelines permits eligible students who are in grades 9 through 12 and registered full time in a special school (Pine View or SPHS) to participate in interscholastic athletic programs at a (public) district school following all Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics

Participation Designation) guidelines and procedures established by Sarasota County School Board.

All FHSAA eligibility requirements and guidelines must be adhered to by any student participating in district-sponsored athletic programs. Students attending a special school and approved for an interscholastic participation designation are in no way guaranteed placement on any sport/athletic roster at the school of choice. Students who seek to participate in a particular athletic program must follow all eligibility guidelines to become an official member of the athletic team. If the student does not make the team, he/she may not return to the districted school to participate in any athletic program in that school year.

The following guidelines are used to conduct Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation) for eligible students enrolled at Pine View School or SPHS:

- a) Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation) will only be offered to eligible students who are in grades 9 through 12 and registered full time at Pine View School or SPHS.
- b) The application period for Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation) will be March 1 through May 15 of each school year.
- c) Parents/Guardians who miss a Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation) enrollment period for any given reason will be required to wait until the next open enrollment period.
- d) Parents/Guardians will be able to obtain and complete an Athletics Participation Designation application at Pine View School, SPHS or at the district Athletic Office. All completed applications must be submitted to the district Athletic Office by the specified due date. Incomplete applications shall not be processed.
- e) Parents/Guardians participating in the Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation) application period may annually designate one (1) district school (the Designated school) at which their student(s) will register his or her intent to represent the school in interscholastic athletics for the subsequent school year. This choice will continue unless during a subsequent open enrollment period the parent/guardian notifies intent to change this designation.
- f) Parent/Guardians and students will be notified within 15 business days of the action taken on the Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation) application. If the school designation is approved, parents will be given sufficient time to accept their school designation in accordance with this process.
- g) Students shall not participate in extracurricular activities nor register their intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative at the Designated school prior to receiving written notification from the district Athletic Office. At no time shall a student participate in an interscholastic athletic program at a Choice designated school without these measures being in place.
- h) The Designated school's principal and athletic director will be given a roster of the students who are approved to try out for athletic programs at their school. A student's athletic eligibility shall be determined by FHSAA Operational Bylaws along with district and school policies and athletic guidelines/requirements.
- i) A student who initiates athletic activity at the Designated Choice school may participate in interscholastic athletic programs only at that Designated Choice school for the remainder of the school year, and only if he or she remains eligible based on policies and guidelines set by the Designated school, district and FHSAA.
- j) A student who violates athletic program participation requirements or regulations set by the Designated school and/or FHSAA shall have their Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation revoked. The

student shall return to his or her district school where athletic eligibility shall be determined by the principal.

- k) Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation shall annually be renewed unless:
- i. A parent/guardian designates a new school through Controlled Open Enrollment (Special School Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation).
 - ii. A student withdraws from the special school. If this occurs, the student's Designated Choice school assignment is revoked, and he/she shall only be eligible to participate in athletic programs at his/her districted school according to district and FHSAA guidelines.
 - iii. The parent notifies the district Athletic Office to withdraw their intent to continue with automatic renewal of the Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation.
 - iv. The student has his or her Interscholastic Athletics Participation Designation revoked.

3) **Magnet Schools and Programs**

The district currently has two magnet schools (Bay Haven Elementary School and Suncoast Polytechnical High School) and several magnet programs (listed below). Parents and guardians may apply directly to those schools and programs for admission. As part of the application process to a district magnet school or magnet program, a Sarasota County Student Reassignment Application requesting a voluntary placement should be completed and returned to the school or program for the principal's signature acknowledging that the student has met all eligibility criteria or admission and reassignment. The school will submit the completed reassignment application to the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools. A student who is accepted into a district magnet school or magnet program and residing outside Sarasota County must follow the reassignment guidelines and procedures for both Sarasota County and the district in which he or she resides.

The district magnet schools' admissions deadlines may vary, however the deadline to apply to any of the magnet programs is May 1. Students who are dismissed or choose to leave a magnet school or magnet program before completing the highest grade level offered at the school and/or program shall be returned to their assigned districted school.

a) The district offers the following magnet programs:

- **Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program-**
 - Booker High School
 - Heron Creek Middle School
 - North Port High School
 - Sarasota High School
- **International Baccalaureate (IB) Program –**
 - Brookside Middle School
 - Riverview High School
 - Venice High School
- **MaST (Math and Science & Technology) Program –**
 - Sarasota High School
- **STEM A+2 (Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics, Arts & Agriscience)**
 - McIntosh Middle School
- **Young Marines**
 - Venice Middle School
- **Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Program–**
 - Booker High School
 - Booker Middle School

b) Parents must check with the specific school of interest to determine if transportation will be provided.

4) **Charter Schools**

Charter schools are publically funded schools that operate under a performance contract, or "charter." The charter contract between the charter school governing board and Sarasota County Schools, the sponsor, details the school's mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment and ways to measure success. The length of time for which a charter contract is granted varies. Each sponsored charter school has application and enrollment procedures in accordance with the charter contract. Additionally, all sponsored charter schools may give enrollment preference to the student populations identified in F.S. 1002.33(10)(d).

Parents must apply and receive acceptance directly from the charter school. Parents electing to enroll their students in a district-sponsored charter school do so as a voluntary Choice placement. A student who lives outside of Sarasota County who seeks enrollment in a district-sponsored charter school must get approval from the school district where he or she resides prior to registering at the selected charter school. Students who attend a charter school are eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities at their assigned district school pursuant to F.S. 1006.15(3)(d).

5) **McKay Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities**

The district participates in the McKay Scholarship program offered through the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE). Parents of eligible students with special needs may select a placement in a private school or selected public school, including charter schools. The McKay Scholarship public school option is subject to the availability of required services for the individual student at the requested school. With the district's assistance, FLDOE determines deadlines, eligibility, award amounts and payment distributions based on Florida Statute 1002.39 and State Rule 6A-6.0970. Parents can learn more about this option on FLDOE's website (www.floridaschoolchoice.org) or by visiting the district's website (www.sarasotacountyschools.net). Information about this option also is provided to parents by district schools during the process of developing and implementing the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan. Parents wishing to gain access to the John McKay Scholarship may do so through the Florida Department of Education website.

Parents choosing to return their child from a private school into the public school setting should call the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools to learn of the options available. Public schools selected by a parent using a McKay Scholarship not only must have available space, but they must also have the programs and resources necessary to fulfill the student's IEP and Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

Parents may need to provide transportation for their children attending a school selected through the McKay Scholarship program.

6) **Virtual Instruction Options**

Florida Statutes, Section 1002.321, requires districts to provide multiple opportunities for students to participate in virtual instruction. Sarasota fulfills this requirement using part-time and full-time virtual options offered through the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) and Sarasota virtual programs.

a) **Sarasota Virtual School Full Time (SVS FT)**

Sarasota County Schools offers K-12 students access to online instruction through SVS FL which is a free public school. In accordance with Florida Statute 1002.45, SVS FT is an interactive learning environment in which the student and teacher are separated by time, space or both. Eligible students may be provided with a computer and/or Internet connection if they qualify for the Free/Reduced Price Lunch program. SVS FT students access lessons, assignments and assessments through the Internet, and teachers communicate with students and parents in many different ways using technology. SVS FT meets all Florida public school standards and requirements and receives a school grade along with all Florida schools. Students completing graduation requirements earn a standard high school diploma.

Students are eligible for SVS FT if they meet the criteria in F.S. 1002.455.

Sarasota County Schools currently contracts with three FLDOE-approved virtual instruction providers (VIP). The VIP provide SVS FT students with instructional materials that include textbooks, resources and depending on the VIP, a variety of printed materials. Textbooks and traditional instructional materials are used, but much of the content is delivered via the providers' websites.

An annual open enrollment period (a minimum of 90 days) which ends 30 days before the first day of each school year, will be available to students seeking to enroll in SVS FT. The open enrollment period will be announced by the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools in February using correspondence, media releases, the district website and any other way deemed appropriate to ensure parents receive timely notification. Parents interested in this option must apply for enrollment and a reassignment from their districted school through the Office of Choice, Charter Schools, and Virtual School prior to registering on the selected contracted VIP's website. Parents and students are required to have a face-to-face interview with the school's academic advisor prior to enrolling.

SVS FT administration or a parent/guardian can withdraw a student at the end of a semester when deemed in the best interest of the student's academic, social, and/or emotional growth and development. The withdrawn student will be returned to his or her assigned district school.

SVS FT follows the School-Board-approved Assessment Calendar. Students are required to participate in statewide assessments at designated grade levels, as required by F.S. 1008.22, 1008.34 and 1001.11. SVS FT students must also take grade-specific assessments required by the district. SVS FT follows Sarasota County Schools' Student Progression Plan based on a student's current grade level.

SVS FT students are eligible to participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity at the districted school to which the student would be otherwise assigned based on state statute.

b) Sarasota Virtual Academy Part Time (SVA PT)

SVA PT is a high quality free online program that serves students in Sarasota County by offering part time virtual high school courses that are designed to match each student's individual educational needs. SVA PT allows grade 9-12 students to take at least one online course within the credits required for graduation in accordance with F.S. 1003.428.

SVA PT is designed to serve students who are enrolled full-time in a Sarasota County secondary school, which includes traditional and charter schools. Since SVA PT is a franchise of Florida Virtual School (FLVS), they provide all content and curricula. Sarasota County School Board-appointed, highly qualified and certified teachers deliver the instruction via the Internet. Online instructors are available Monday through Friday with office hours that vary from course to course.

SVA PT follows district timelines and guidelines for registration and withdrawal policies as outlined in the Student Progression Plan. SVA PT is a year round program, and offers continuous, rolling enrollment throughout the school year and into the summer. SVA PT does not grant a high school diploma.

c) Florida Virtual School Full Time (FLVS FT) Public School

FLVS FT is a fully-accredited public school in the state of Florida. Students in grades K-12 may enroll in one of two schools (a K-8 school and a 9-12 school). FLVS becomes the student's district and FLVS FT is the school of enrollment and instruction for the student. FLVS FT operates independently of Sarasota County Schools and all enrolled students must follow FLVS FT school policies, guidelines and procedures. FLVS FT follows a traditional 180-day calendar with all students observing the same start and end dates for school and a more traditional pace of instruction. FLVS FT does award high school diplomas to eligible candidates meeting the necessary graduation requirements. To learn more about educational programs at FLVS FT and eligibility criteria, parents are encouraged to visit the

FLVS FT school website at www.connectionsacademy.com

d) **Florida Virtual School K-12 Part Time Program (FLVS PT)**

Students in grades K-12 may take advantage of online courses through FLVS PT. FLVS PT is fully accredited and offers free online courses to students living in Florida in grades kindergarten through 12. Students must be enrolled in a district school in order to take advantage of the FLVS PT option. A student seeking to take a virtual course through the FLVS PT option during the school day is required to take the course(s) at the school he/she is currently attending. Students have expanded access to courses for credit retrieval, acceleration or other personal needs. Parents seeking this option for their students should work through their children's school counselors at their individual schools. Courses completed in FLVS PT for recovery or for high school credit are fully transferable to a district middle or high school.

7) **Home School**

Home education is defined as the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent or guardian, in order to satisfy the requirement for compulsory education (F.S. 1002.20). Any parent who fulfills the reporting, record keeping, and student evaluation requirements specified in the law may conduct a home education program without being required to be a certified teacher. The Supervisor of School Choice, Charter Schools and Virtual School acts as the Superintendent's Designee for Home Education Programs in Sarasota County. As parents/guardians establish their Home Education Programs, the Designee will help them comply with the state statutes (see below) that govern this School Choice Option in Florida. Parents and guardians who are considering Home Education as a School Choice Option should know they have the following responsibilities under Florida Statutes 1003.21 and 1002.41:

- Parents/Guardians must notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing within 30 days of the establishment of the Home Education Program.
- Parents/Guardians are required to maintain a portfolio of records and materials. This portfolio is to be preserved for two years and be made available, upon 15 days' notice, for inspection.
- Parents/Guardians are required to provide the Office of School Choice, Charter Schools and Virtual School with an annual educational evaluation of students in the home education program:
 - a. A Florida teacher, (currently certified to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level) may assess the child.
 - b. The child can take any nationally-normed student achievement test, administered by a certified teacher chosen by the parent.
 - c. The child can take a State student assessment test (if available through the school district)
 - d. The child can be evaluated by an individual holding a valid, active license pursuant to the provisions of F.S. 490.003 (7) or (8).
 - e. The child can be evaluated with any other valid measurement tool not covered in 1-4 if mutually agreed upon by the Superintendent (designee) of the district in which the child resides. Examples would be SAT or ACT scores, grades earned through dual enrollment, or classes taken at public schools, private schools or online.

The evaluation is due in the Office of School Choice, Charter School and Virtual School no later than 12 months after your child is registered (and within each 12 month period following that date should your child continue in home education for more than one [1] year).

Students who withdraw from a Choice school, a magnet school/program or the full-time virtual school to enroll in home education and desire to return to the non-District school /program of last enrollment shall follow the reassignment process. A reassignment is not guaranteed but may be granted, based upon the enrollment limits of the school, grade and applicable program.

8) Options at Individual Schools

Several district schools have special programs which are ONLY open to students enrolled at the school. Programs may have eligibility criteria for acceptance and some placements may need to be made through school district departments such as the Exceptional Student Education Department. Examples of these options include gifted education programs, Advanced Placement classes, Exceptional Student Education cluster sites, dual enrollment programs, and others. Program placements within schools do not require reassignments forms.

I. Administration of Choice Programs

Oversight of all Controlled Choice implementation strategies and actions shall be carried out by the Superintendent's staff who will monitor: (1) student assignments and reassignments and their effects on instructional capacity, diversity, and school profiles at all schools within the district; (2) the range of curriculum, instruction, and program offerings at each level; and (3) instructional quality and improved student performance for all students.

The Superintendent or designee may make periodic reports to the Board on the implementation of Choice programs. The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board each year the number of assignments to/from each school and any other pertinent data concerning the Choice program.

The authority for the assignment of all students resides with the Supervisor of The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools who will make and coordinate assignments in accordance with these procedures. Principals and other school system personnel may not assign students to schools, with the sole exception of magnet programs. The Supervisor of The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools will inform principals of all assignments made to their schools at the earliest possible time.

J. Transportation

Transportation will continue to be provided to students attending magnet schools, students assigned by the district to special programs and to others in accordance with transportation service standards, Florida Statutes, and district policies set by the School Board. Transportation will not be provided to students receiving regular choice assignments through Controlled Open Enrollment.

K. Reassignments

The Reassignment process is available to those students who meet special circumstances for attending a non-districted school. Reassignment requests are granted/not granted by a committee which may consist of the Supervisor of Student Assignment, school-level Executive Directors and content/program area administrators. Individual School Board members and the Superintendent shall not be involved in decisions concerning a student's reassignment. Until the reassignment process is complete, staff in the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools or staff at any school may not inform a student or parent of the likelihood of a reassignment approval.

1) Reasons for a Reassignment

Reassignments may be granted, based upon the enrollment limits of the school, grade and applicable program, for the following reasons and under the stated conditions:

a) Hardship

Reassignments of K-12 students for severe extenuating conditions may be granted based upon written statements from parents/guardian and upon verification by the impacted schools, when appropriate.

i. Special Needs Hardship

This provision pertains only to students who, because of extenuating circumstance, would experience a hardship by attending the assigned schools. The parent/guardian must submit a written explanation in support of the hardship with the reassignment application.

ii. Supervision

A parent/guardian may request a reassignment for elementary school students (grades K-5) when severe circumstances have an impact on pre- and/or post-school supervision. A written explanation of the critical circumstances involving before and/or after school care must be submitted with the reassignment application.

iii. Health Reasons

Reassignment of a student may be made for valid health reasons. Detailed and compelling reasons based on physical health for reassigning a student from one specific school to another specific school must be certified in writing by the student's physician. The written communication from the physician must specify the reason(s) that the reassignment is necessary or desirable. Reasons based upon physical health must be certified in writing by appropriate medical staff assigned by the director of the Sarasota County Health Department.

b) Change of Residence

i. Moving Between School Attendance Zones During the School Year

Students who move at any time during the school year may complete a reassignment to remain at their current school, or may register at their new districted school. If the student remains at the current school transportation must be provided by the parent.

ii. Moving Into a Different Attendance Area

A parent/guardian of a student who submits valid proof, including substantiation of the expected date of occupancy, that the student will be moving into an attendance area within 60 school days shall, upon request, have the student assigned to the school serving that attendance area. These reassignments may be processed at any time.

iii. Senior Athletic/Extracurricular Exemption

A 12th grade student who has participated in an athletic program or extracurricular activity for the previous two school years and moves out of a school's zone may remain at the school of enrollment and continue to participate in that athletic program/extracurricular activity provided the student is in good standing and continues to meet all eligibility criteria. This provision does not apply to students enrolled in special schools (Pine View School or Suncoast Polytechnical High School).

c) Out-of-County Reassignments

Students who reside in a neighboring school district (Manatee, DeSoto or Charlotte Counties) may be permitted to attend a Sarasota County school and vice versa. Please see sections (F) and (G) for details.

d) Admission to Magnet School/Program or Virtual School

The parent of a student admitted into a magnet school/program or other full time virtual program shall submit a reassignment form as official notice. This is not a requirement for charter school enrollment.

2) Reassignment Process

The following procedures shall govern all requests for reassignment within Sarasota County:

- a) The reassignment form may be obtained from the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools by the parent or guardian; the form will be returned to that office once completed by district personnel. Parents must submit documentation to substantiate the request for a reassignment. Applications received without appropriate documentation will be returned to the parent. Reassignment applications may take up to 30 business days from the date of submission to be processed and reviewed. The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools will notify parents of the action taken by the Review Committee on their reassignment requests.

- b) For requests based on a change of address to the attendance area, valid proof shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, at least one of the following:
- An original or certified copy of legal papers certifying that custody of the student will be changed within 60 school days to someone living in the new attendance area;
 - An original or certified copy of an approved lease or rental agreement showing occupancy to take place within 60 school days;
 - An original or certified copy of an executed contract to build or purchase with an estimated occupancy date within 60 school days; or,
 - The substantiating documentation must be attached to the request for reassignment. Dollar figures for such items as monthly payments or loan amounts may be blacked out on the original or certified copy attached to the reassignment form. The district may investigate the credibility of any substantiating documentation. The school shall track each request to determine the extent to which the student does move into the attendance zone within 60 school days; students found out of compliance with this section may be withdrawn from school immediately.
- c) Sarasota County students seeking reassignment to a neighboring county must first complete the reassignment form and return it to the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools which will release the student from her/his current school. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to then work with the chosen district to enroll the student. Students from neighboring counties who wish to attend a Sarasota County school must first obtain a release from their current school district before completing the reassignment form. Parents/guardians must submit a letter outlining their reasons for wishing to enroll their child in a Sarasota school. Reassignment applications may take up to 30 business days from the date of submission to be processed and reviewed. The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools will notify parents of the action taken by the Review Committee. The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools will notify parents of the action taken by the Review Committee on their reassignment requests.
- d) The parent or guardian of a reassigned student shall enter into an agreement with the receiving school. A student may be returned to the school serving her/his attendance area if, after proper warning and offer of assistance, s/he exhibits poor attendance/punctuality, demonstrates a pattern of behavior in violation of the "Code of Student Conduct," and/or if the parent/guardian fails to cooperate to correct the problem. Students will be returned to their districted school at a time that is considerate of grading periods.
- e) Reassignments may be processed in batches during specific periods set by the Superintendent or individually at other times. Hardship reassignments for the following school year shall be accepted only through the last school day of each year. Reassignment applications may take up to 30 business days from the date of submission to be processed and reviewed. No reassignments, except those associated with address changes, will be processed during the two weeks prior to the first day of school. The Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools will notify parents of the action taken by the Review Committee on their reassignment requests.
- f) Whenever the number of reassignment requests exceeds the available seats at any grade the district may give preference in the following situations:
- Sibling already enrolled at the requested school,
 - Before/after school care at elementary schools,
 - Continuing out-of-county students,
 - Employee preference
- The district may approve a request by a parent or guardian who is a full time School Board employee

for a transfer for his or her child, at any grade K-12, to attend the school to which the parent is assigned, provided such school offers instruction at the proper grade level and space is available.

- g) All requests for reassignments of self-contained and low-incidence ESE, ESOL, and other special needs students shall be reviewed by the appropriate district administrator to assure that necessary services are available at the requested school.
- h) No student shall be allowed to enroll at the requested school until approval is granted through these procedures.
- i) Transportation must be provided by the parent/guardian.

3) Other Policies Regarding Reassignments

a) Return to Districted School

This process allows students who received a reassignment to return to their districted school during the school year, based on extenuating circumstances. Students may return at the beginning of a school year without submitting a reassignment form by coordinating their intention with the appropriate guidance counselors by May 1.

When a student withdraws from the district's full-time virtual school, home school, a magnet school/program, a Choice school, charter school or a school/program outside the district, he or she is required to attend the districted school assigned to his or her residence. The parent/guardian shall follow the reassignment process to request an assignment to the school in which the student was enrolled prior to the withdrawal. A reassignment is not guaranteed but may be granted, depending upon the enrollment limits of the school, grade and applicable program.

b) Redistricting

Following a redistricting, those affected students who by Board action are allowed to remain at the current school may be granted reassignment to remain. Transportation for such students will be determined by Board action and there is NO assurance of continued service.

c) High School Athletics

For reassignments of high school students, the Florida High School Athletics Association Regulations shall govern eligibility for athletics of all reassigned students.

4) Transportation for Reassignments

Parent/guardian of students granted a reassignment must provide their own transportation to/from the school.

L. Appeals Process

For Sarasota County residents for whom a school preference under controlled choice or reassignment is denied for a reason other than enrollment limit, the parent, guardian, or student of legal age shall have the right of appeal to an Appeals Board.

- 1) The Appeals Board may be composed of four or five voting members:
 - The county health officer or his/her representative;
 - One or two representatives of elementary and secondary schools;
 - One or two district-level administrators; and,
 - One or two lay citizens, selected for each hearing by the Superintendent's designee.
- 2) The Appeals Board shall be chaired by the Superintendent's designee who shall have no vote.
- 3) A challenge of a student assignment may be made on the grounds that the Controlled Choice process was not followed or to appeal the denial of a reassignment. The following procedure shall be followed:
 - Each request for appeal must be in writing. Appeals based on denial of assignment under the Controlled Choice Plan may be accepted at any time; appeals based on denial of a reassignment request must be

received by the Superintendent's designee within three working days after notification of denial.

- Appeals will be heard only at scheduled times.
- Additional information presented at an appeal hearing by the Superintendent's designee may necessitate the hearing being temporarily recessed for referral back to the principal(s) involved for reconsideration, pending completion of the hearing process.
- A quorum shall be present for recommendations on all appeals. Three voting members shall constitute a quorum. An affirmative decision to recommend the appeal (reverse the denial) of any transfer or reassignment shall require a simple majority of those voting. If a member determines that he or she cannot cast an objective vote for any reason, that member must abstain from voting. If the abstention causes the council to fall below a quorum, the appeal shall be rescheduled to the next Appeals Board meeting. The Appeals Board's decision will be final.
- The Supervisor of Student Assignment will notify the parent/guardian in writing of the recommendation of the Appeals Board. Within ten (10) business days.