

CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

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

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- 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.
- F. ~~A student who has been attending, in the year prior to the designation, a public school that has been classified as performance grade category "D" or "F" and is in one of the two lowest performance categories as defined by statute or a student who is assigned to a public school that has been designated as performance grade category "D" or "F" and is in one of the~~

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~~two lowest performance categories as defined by statute may attend a higher performing public school in the District or a school in another district as allowed by law.~~

- 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 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:

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- 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 development of proposed changes. The Office of ~~Long Range~~ Planning will organize and work directly with this group. The Boundary Advisory Committee shall be formed with the following membership:
- Director of ~~Long Range~~ Planning,
 - ~~the~~ Principal of each affected school,
 - ~~the~~ 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.

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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, 1/29/07, 3/30/10, 7/24/12
FORMERLY: 2.124, 7.102

NOTES:
~~Requires Annual Review: In December~~