



Section Four: Students

“Together We Learn”

405 – STUDENT PLACEMENT

Introduction

A student may enroll in an educational program at any school in our district, providing there is space, as outlined by Sections 2(2) and 74.1 of the *School Act*, this Policy and its Regulations.

The Board of Education will designate school catchment areas in the School District in order to:

- meet the program needs of the students as much as possible;
- make the best use of facilities, staff and transportation; and if possible,
- enable the school to develop a unique identity.

Policy

1. The principles for setting/changing catchment areas should include the requirement for boundaries to:
 - reflect traditional neighbourhoods, subdivisions and regions;
 - minimize safety concerns for elementary students as a result of major roadways or other known hazards;
 - reflect long-term development to minimize stress caused by frequently changing boundaries in rapidly growing/declining areas;
 - maximize the efficiency of schools and the transportation system;
 - maintain a cohort of students at each grade level offered at the school, to support the long-term sustainability of the school.
2. Where space permits, students should be allowed to remain in currently assigned schools and catchment area changes will apply only to new registrations.
3. In some situations it may be necessary and desirable to relocate students from one school to another. Except as specified in Board Policy 470 - *Transportation Services Management*, students are eligible for School District transport if they are directed to a school beyond the walk limits of their home. The two most common reasons for relocation are capping and reassigning.



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4. Capping occurs when a school, grade, class or program has reached the capacity as set by the Board. New students wishing to register in a capped school, grade, class or program will be directed to another school. When capping occurs:
 - 4.1 Students who have been directed to another school will have first option, based on a chronological list, of returning to their catchment area school when space becomes available during the year.
 - 4.2 Students will have the option of returning to their catchment area school at the beginning of the new school year if space is available, or remaining at the school to which they were directed.
5. Reassigning occurs when a student changes school catchment area as a result of a request by the parent, student or administration.
 - 5.1 A reassignment will be approved if the receiving school, grade or program has space to accommodate the student.
6. A student placement decision made by the Superintendent or designate may be appealed to the Board, under Board Policy 460 – *Appeals*.

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May 8, 2013

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Related Documents: 405R, Policy 460



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405R – STUDENT PLACEMENT (REGULATIONS)

1. Placement

A student may enrol in an educational program at any school in our district, providing there is space, as outlined in Sections 2(2) and 74.1 of the *School Act*, this Policy and its Regulations, unless they have been directed to another school for any reason as determined by the Superintendent of Schools or designate.

Once a student has been registered in a school, he/she will be counted as a student of that school.

2. Enrolment Priorities

Priority shall be given to students on the following basis:

- catchment area students who, in the previous year, attended the school;
- catchment area students who, in the previous year, were ‘placed’ by the district in a different school;
- siblings of catchment area students;
- new catchment area students;
- siblings of non-catchment area students currently enrolled in the school;
- non-catchment area students who request to attend the school which is other than their catchment area school;
- non-district area students;
- international students.

The enrolment priorities are applied on a grade by grade basis and are not intended to cause the school to change its grade configuration. Each school is expected to maintain a cohort of students at each grade level offered at the school.

3. Capping

In situations where a grade, class, program or school has reached capacity as set by the Board of Education, capping will be used to relocate students to another school as follows:

- 3.1 Decisions related to capping will be made by the appropriate area Assistant Superintendent, in consultation with the parent(s)/student, the two Principals involved and the Director of Operations or designate if necessary.



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- 3.2 The Assistant Superintendent will provide to the Principals a form letter to communicate to parents the relocation of the student to another school and explaining the procedure.
- 3.3 The home catchment area Principal will place students on a chronological waiting list and will notify the parent(s)/student when space becomes available.
- 3.4 When notified that space is available, parent(s) will have the option of returning the student to the catchment area school, either immediately or at the beginning of the new school year, or have the student remain at the school to which he/she was relocated through capping. If the latter is chosen, the parent(s)/student will be responsible for transportation.

4. Non-Catchment Area Student Registrations

- 4.1 Each year, the Board will establish a formal registration period during which time a parent (or a student who is living independently) may seek to be registered at a school or program outside their catchment area in the following school year. Applications for registration will be considered in accordance with the Enrolment Priorities set out in Section 2 above, provided there is space in the school. Applications received after the formal registration period will be considered in September following the procedures identified in 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of these Regulations.
- 4.2 Applications for students from outside the school's catchment area will be placed on a chronological waiting list, based on the date and time the registration is received. After the students from within the catchment area have been placed into classes, non-catchment area students may be accepted into the school from the established Registration Priority waiting list.
- 4.3 The receiving Principal will notify the parent(s) of the acceptance/rejection of the registration and of the student's position on the waiting list by the end of the first week in September.
- 4.4 Once a student is accepted into a school outside of his/her catchment area, siblings of this student will be accepted by established registration priorities and according to space being available.



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- 4.5 Applications for transfers of non-catchment area students who are currently enrolled in the Central Okanagan School District will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into account the considerations set out in Section 5.1 of these Regulations. Applications for transfers will not be used to circumvent the Enrolment Priorities for non-catchment area student registration in this Section.

5. Reassignment Registrations

- 5.1 A reassignment of a student may occur if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the student and the school, after consultation with the receiving Principal and the parent(s)/student.
- 5.2 The receiving Principal should notify the parent(s)/student of the decision, at the earliest possible date.

6. Transportation

Transportation to attend a school other than the catchment area school shall be the sole responsibility of the parents, as in Board Policy 470 - *Transportation Services Management* unless the student has been directed to attend another school because of capping, or for any other reason as determined by the Superintendent or designate.

7. Appeals

A student placement decision made in accordance with this Policy and Regulations may be appealed to the Board under Board Policy 460 – *Appeals* and Regulations 460.2R – *Appeals Related to Student Placement*.

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Related Documents: Forms 405, 405.1, Policy 460, 460.2R