

Hillsdale Community Schools Bylaws & Policies

5113 - SCHOOLS OF CHOICE PROGRAM(Inter-District)

The Board of Education has determined that it will allow nonresident students, residing within the Hillsdale County ISD, but whose parent(s) does not reside in the District, and who qualify, to enroll in the District through a Schools of Choice program during the forthcoming school year. Furthermore, the Board has determined that it will also allow nonresident students residing in intermediate school districts contiguous to the Hillsdale County Intermediate School District to enroll in the District through a Schools of Choice Program during the forthcoming year, provided they qualify.

The Board shall review this decision annually based on information provided by the Superintendent concerning the availability of space in each of the district's schools and programs. The Board shall determine and publish whether or not it will accept applications for enrollment by new constituent district students, contiguous district students, or tuition students by the second Friday in August for the next school year. The Board may, at its option, choose to accept Schools of Choice students for any second semester openings. Openings for second semester must be published two (2) weeks prior to the end of the first semester.

Any constituent or contiguous district students who were enrolled during the previous school year or semester under a Schools of Choice program will be permitted to enroll for the next school year.

If the Board determines that there will be a limited number of positions available in a grade, school, or program, the District shall, by the second Friday in August, establish and publicize a fifteen (15) day period during which applications will be accepted and the place and manner for submitting applications. If the Board determines that there are unlimited positions available in a grade, school, or program, applications shall be accepted through the Friday preceding the first day of school.

If the Board determines during the first semester of a school year that space will be available for a Schools of Choice Program and students, other than those already entitled to preference because they made timely application before the school year began, can be enrolled for the second semester, then the District will accept applications and enroll qualifying nonresident students provided those nonresidents comply with the registration deadlines established in the administrative guidelines.

ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

(Note: Sections below marked * must be selected if the program is designed to count students without waiver from the resident district.)

Students who have been enrolled in the District through a Schools of Choice Program during the previous semester or school year may continue their enrollment through graduation provided they maintain continuous enrollment and are not expelled for disciplinary reasons.

- A. If the number of applications for admission from nonresident students exceeds the number of available enrollment opportunities, enrollment priority shall be given to a sibling of a nonresident student already admitted under this program.
- B. Nonresident students shall be selected for remaining vacancies using a random selection process.
- C. Tuition students shall be included in the determination of class and program size prior to accepting new constituent or contiguous district students.
- D. Before a contiguous district student who is eligible for special education programs and services will be accepted, there must be a separate written agreement between the district of residence

and the accepting district specifying the responsibility for paying the added costs of the special education programs and services.

- E. Enrollment may or may not be available to any nonresident student who has been suspended, expelled or otherwise released or excluded from his/her home district for disciplinary reasons. The Superintendent shall make the decision based on the circumstances involved, in accordance with statutory restrictions.
 - F. The District's Policy 2260 - Equal Educational Opportunity shall apply to all applicants under this program. In addition, the District will not discriminate on the basis of an applicant's intellectual, academic, artistic, athletic, or other ability, talent, or accomplishment, or based on a mental or physical disability.
 - G. The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and promulgating administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Such guidelines shall address at least the following matters:
 - 1. Communication with the parents of nonresident students seeking admission (or the student, if legally emancipated) concerning the timelines and other requirements for application as well as a statement of nondiscrimination (See Policy 2260 - Access to Equal Educational Opportunity).
 - 2. Participation in interscholastic athletics.
 - 3. District transportation services.
4. Pre-requisites and other eligibility standards associated with courses of study.
- 5. Transfer of academic credit.
 - 6. Admission of special-education students.
 - 7. Payment of fees and other charges.

RELEASE OF RESIDENT STUDENTS

- A. The Superintendent shall ensure that the records of a resident student who transfers to another district are sent promptly to the other district.
- B. The Superintendent shall inform the State Department of Education should the number of resident students transferring to constituent districts under a Schools of Choice program exceed ten percent (10%) of the District's resident student population.

M.C.L.A. 388.1705
PA 300, 1996, as amended