

## **SCHOOLS OF CHOICE**

The Board of Education has determined that it will allow nonresident students, residing within the Macomb 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 Macomb 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.

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

### **DEFINITIONS:**

The following definitions will apply to the District's Schools of Choice program.

**A. Constituent District**

A school district located within the Macomb ISD.

**B. Contiguous Intermediate School District**

A school district within a different ISD which borders on the Macomb Intermediate School District.

**C. Home District**

A nonresident student's district of residence within the ISD.

**D. Constituent-District Student**

A student who is a legal resident or otherwise legally entitled to attend school in another school district within the same ISD who does not have a parent residing in the District and who seeks admission to this District under Schools of Choice.

**E. Contiguous District Student**

A student who is a legal resident of, or otherwise legally entitled to attend school in a district within any intermediate school district which borders on the Macomb Intermediate School District; does not have a parent residing in the District; and

seeks admission to the District under the Schools of Choice Program.

**F. Program Size**

The enrollment or size restrictions in a specific program, course, class or building. The District reserves the exclusive right to establish program size and to limit enrollment based upon the capability to properly allocate available resources, create and maintain a proper learning environment, and comply with contracts, grants and applicable laws and regulations.

**G. Resident Student**

A student who is a legal resident of this District and is consequently entitled to attend school in this District in accordance with the Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students board policy.

**H. Tuition Student**

A student who resides outside the Intermediate School District and has enrolled or seeks to enroll in this District upon payment of the established tuition fee.

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 by April 1st whether or not it will accept applications for enrollment by nonresident students for the next school year.

**ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS:**

If the number of applications for admission from nonresident students exceeds the number of available enrollment opportunities, nonresident students shall be selected for admission using a random selection process.

Enrollment priority shall be given to a sibling of a nonresident student already admitted under this program.

Tuition students shall be included in the determination of class and program size prior to accepting Schools-of-Choice students.

Enrollment is not 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.

The District Policy titled, Non-Discrimination/Equal 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.

Section 105c requires that to enroll a student eligible for special education programs and services or a student who is a child with disabilities under IDEA, the educating district must have a written agreement with the resident district for the purposes of providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) and the agreement must include the responsibility for payment of the added costs of special education programs and services for the student. MCL 38.17505c (17).

If a student with a 105c agreement requires additional special education support or programs that are not available in the Fitzgerald Public Schools district, the resident district will be contacted and a new agreement will need to be developed or the student will return to the resident district for appropriate support and services. The resident district will not be charged any additional fees without a new 105c agreement in place that includes any fees associated with the agreement.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and promulgating administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Such guidelines shall address at least the following matters:

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.

Participation in interscholastic athletics.

District transportation services.

Pre-requisites and other eligibility standards associated with courses of study.

Transfer of academic credit.

Assignment within the District.

Admission of special-education students.

Payment of fees and other charges.

#### **RELEASE OF RESIDENT STUDENTS:**

The Superintendent shall ensure that the records of a resident student who transfers to another district are sent promptly to the other district.