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MANIFEST EDUCATIONAL HARDSHIP

Resident students of the Dover School District shall be assigned to a public school within the district by the Superintendent or designee.

The Dover School Board recognizes that in unusual and extraordinary circumstances, parent(s) or guardian(s) may wish to request a change of assignment to another public school within the district or a public school in another district. When the parent(s) or guardian(s) believe that the assignment which has been made will result in a manifest educational hardship to the student, the School Board will consider these requests, according to the procedure outlined below.

PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF A MANIFEST EDUCATIONAL HARDSHIP REQUEST

The following procedures will be utilized where a parent(s) or guardian(s) seeks a change of assignment within the district or a waiver of assignment from attending any school in the district, based on an assertion that the current assignment constitutes a manifest educational hardship:

1. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall make a written request, through the Superintendent's office, detailing the specific reasons why they believe that the current assignment constitutes a manifest educational hardship. Any such written request shall be made by the parent(s) or guardian(s) within fifteen (15) days of the assignment made by the Superintendent or designee.
2. The School Board will schedule a time at a regular board meeting held within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written request of the parent(s) or guardian(s) to hear the parent(s) or guardian(s) request. At such time, the parent(s) or guardian(s) may address the Board. The Board will hear the parent(s) or guardian(s) request in non-public session, subject to the right of the parent(s) or guardian(s) to have the matter heard in public session under RSA 91-A:3 II. (c).
3. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student may use whatever information which they deem is appropriate to support their request. At a minimum, however, the parent(s) or guardians(s) must submit information demonstrating to the School Board that the current assignment is detrimental or has a negative effect on the student.
4. In determining whether the current assignment of the student constitutes a manifest educational hardship and what the corresponding appropriate action should be (which may include, but not be limited to, assignment to a public school in another district), the Board shall consider all information given it by the

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parent(s) or guardian(s), the recommendations of the Superintendent, and any other information which the School Board deems relevant and useful.

5. The School Board reserves the legal right to make a determination on whether a given request constitutes a manifest educational hardship, and what the corresponding action should be, on a case-by-case basis.
6. The School Board will render its decision in writing within fifteen (15) days after the board meeting in which the parent(s) or guardian(s) addressed the School Board and will forward its written decision to the parents or guardians via U.S. mail.
7. If a parent or guardian is aggrieved by the decision of the School Board, he/she may appeal to the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of Ed 200.

Tuition and Transportation

The Superintendents involved in the reassignment of schools under this policy shall jointly establish a tuition rate for each student. Tuition payments shall be the responsibility of the pupil's resident school district. Some or all of the tuition may be waived by the Superintendent of the receiving district for good cause shown or pursuant to other board policy, if applicable.

The cost of transportation shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

NOTE: See also Dover School District Policy JCA

Legal References

RSA 193:3, which requires each school district to establish a policy on change of assignment due to manifest educational hardship

RSA 193:14-a

RSA 91-A:3 II. (c)

Ed 320, State Board of Education Rules concerning manifest educational hardship

Ed 200 et seq.

Lisbon Regional School District v. Landaff School District, 114 NH 674 (1974)