

DEVIATION FROM ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY POLICY

PURPOSE:

This policy is set forth for the purpose of providing School Committee expectations in situations where it becomes desirable or necessary to assign students to a school of attendance which differs from that established as his/her regular designated school of attendance.

PHILOSOPHY:

In setting forth this policy, the School Committee recognizes that its members and members of the administrative staff may receive requests from parents from time to time to have children regularly attend class in a school other than their designated school of attendance as established by Committee policy. The Committee further acknowledges that some of these requests have sound educational justification and may be worthy of consideration, while others may fall more in the area of meeting parental personal need or convenience and may fall short of justifiable reason to honor.

While the Committee is appreciative of such needs and concerns of parents, it must be recognized that it has a responsibility to all children and to all teachers to see that programming and class sizes throughout the district are reasonably consistent and within contractual constraints. In addition, the Committee is committed to assuring that equal educational opportunity is maintained for all students throughout the district.

POLICY DIRECTIVE:

1. In the event of a parental request to deviate from the Committee's attendance area policy, the administration will review applications for policy deviation from one elementary or middle school attendance area to another in accord with the following guidelines:
 - a. Any approval for school attendance outside a student's policy-designated attendance area will be for the remainder of the school year only, for the school year in which approval was granted.
 - b. In cases where parents move to another school attendance area within the district (or out of the district) after the school year has begun, the student may finish the semester at the original school of assignment in compliance with RIGL 16-64-1.

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- c. Requests for a student to remain at a school of reassignment for a period longer than one year as stipulated in 1.a., or to exceed beyond the semester as stipulated in 1.b., will be reviewed on the basis of cause and classroom space availability.
 - d. Parents receiving approval of a request for a change in a student's school attendance area are required to provide daily transportation to and from the out-of-attendance area school, including the responsibility for transportation service on those days when schools close early due to bad weather or emergencies.
 - e. After an attendance area change has been approved, if the size of the class to which the reassigned student is placed becomes so large as to: 1) cause the School Committee to violate its "class size" agreement with the Teachers' Association; or 2) creates the potential for the need to "split" the class and hire a new teacher, then the approval of reassignment may be revoked at any time during the year as determined necessary by the Superintendent.
 - f. In the event that a reassigned student must be returned to their policy-designated attendance area school during the school year, such terminated reassignment shall be made based on the date the initial request was received on the basis of last in, first out.
2. Applications for deviation from designated school of attendance can be obtained at any elementary or middle school or at the office of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services during office hours.

Adopted: May 5, 1986
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