

A student is usually assigned to the school serving the geographic attendance area in which the student resides. (A student's residence is defined in Policy JBC, and attendance areas are discussed in Policy AD.) However, the DeKalb County Board of Education desires to enhance the educational opportunities available for students of the DeKalb County School District and therefore has established numerous school choice options through which District students may be assigned to schools outside their attendance area. Additionally, students may be eligible for assignment to a school other than the school in their attendance area pursuant to state or federal law.

Instances in which students may attend school outside their attendance area are outlined below. The District will publish written and/or electronic materials further explaining each of these options.

Students who do not reside in the District are not eligible for enrollment in a District school, except as required by state law or as provided below.

A. Special Needs Students

In certain circumstances, special needs students requiring special education student services will be placed in a school other than the school serving their attendance area, in accordance with special education procedures.

B. Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program (Senate Bill 10)

Qualifying special needs students may attend another public school within the District that has available capacity and that has a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing Individualized Education Program (IEP).

C. Limited School Choice (House Bill 251)

Students may enroll in certain schools outside of their attendance area where space is available. The House Bill 251 receiving schools to which a student may transfer are publicized each year after seat availability has been determined. Siblings may be approved only if grade level capacity is available.

D. Other School Choice Programs

The District offers a number of academic options for students including, for example, charter schools, magnet programs, and theme schools; these options are referred to as School Choice Programs. The available School Choice Programs and the relevant admissions criteria are published yearly. Every eligible student, regardless of circumstance, must follow the published criteria and process.

The Board, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, and as allowed by applicable laws and regulations, may move a School Choice Program to a different facility or cease the operation of a School Choice Program.

E. Children of Full-Time Employees

The following provisions apply only to a child whose custodial parent or legal guardian is a full-time employee of the District. These provisions do not apply to pre-K programs.

Subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 below relating to theme schools and magnet programs, a child whose custodial parent or legal guardian is a full-time employee of the District will be allowed to attend the school at which the parent or legal guardian is employed; or, if the child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), at a District school that can appropriately implement the child's IEP. The Office of Student Assignment must be notified before the child is enrolled. Transportation will not be provided by the District. Payment of tuition will not be required even if the employee and child reside in another school district. This option is available only to school-based employees.

Subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 below relating to theme schools and magnet programs, a child whose custodial parent or legal guardian is a full-time employee of the District will be allowed to attend another school within the vertical feeder pattern of the school at which the parent or legal guardian is employed; or, if the child has an IEP, at a District school that can appropriately implement the child's IEP. Central office employees may attend feeder pattern schools located in the vertical feeder pattern of the employee's work site. An employee wishing to avail themselves of the opportunity described in this subparagraph shall notify the Office of Student Assignment in accordance with a timetable issued and published by the Superintendent which reasonably accounts for the District's and individual schools' planning requirements; provided, further, that such timetable shall accommodate new hires who by virtue of their hire date would be in compliance with such timetable and, provided further, that in the first year of implementation such timetable shall be adjusted, to the extent necessitated by the date of passage of this policy, to accommodate all eligible current employees for the 2014-2105 school year. Transportation will not be provided by the District. Payment of tuition will not be required even if the employee and child reside in another school district. Students permitted hereunder to attend a feeder pattern school must abide by school and District approved standards of behavior, attendance, and punctuality in order to be allowed to remain enrolled.

Children seeking to attend a theme school under this provision must enter the lottery and comply with all other admissions procedures applicable to that school. Transportation will not be provided by the District. Payment of tuition will not be required even if the employee and child reside in another school district.

Because of the unique nature of magnet programs, which have special admission criteria and competitive selection processes, children of employees will be given no special preference in seeking admission to a magnet program. Children wishing to enroll in a magnet program must follow the published admission procedures and meet the admission criteria for the program. Moreover, because of the special cost to the District in providing magnet programs, these programs are limited to students who reside in the District. Transportation will not be provided by the District.

Employees' children who, at the time this Policy is enacted, are attending a school that they would not be allowed to attend under this Policy shall be allowed to remain in their current school until they have completed the highest grade at that school.

F. Hardship Transfers

In exceptional circumstances, and on a case-by-case basis, hardship transfer requests will be considered. Upon receiving documentation of an extenuating situation, the Superintendent or designee may approve a recommendation by the Office of Student Assignment that a student be allowed to attend a school other than the school serving the student's attendance area. State law allows for transfer requests in certain circumstances based on placement in a non-permanent classroom or excessive travel time or distance, as specifically defined by state law and the rules of the Georgia Department of Education and such requests may be considered by the District. For all hardship transfer requests, available capacity in the requested school and grade level at the time of the request will be considered. If capacity is not available, the Superintendent may approve transfer to another school in the District. Transportation will not be provided by the District. Siblings may be approved only if grade level capacity is available. Hardship Transfers are limited to residents of DeKalb County School District only.

G. Unsafe School Choice Option

A student who is the victim of a violent criminal offense, as defined by state law, while in or on the grounds of a public elementary school or secondary school that the student attends, may transfer to another school within ten days of the offense. Federal law also provides for transfers out of a school that is designated as a "persistently unsafe school." If a District school is designated as "persistently unsafe," the District will provide procedures for students wishing to transfer from the school.

H. Seniors Moving out of the District or into another District school

A current or rising senior at a District school who moves out of the District may complete his or her senior year at the District school if the student furnishes transportation, abides by District approved standards of behavior, maintains regular attendance, arrives on time, departs on time and **pays tuition** as set forth in Policy JBCBA.

A current or rising senior at a District school who moves into a different attendance zone, but still lives in the District, may complete his or her senior year at the current District school if the student furnishes transportation, abides by District approved standards of behavior, maintains regular attendance, arrives on time, and departs on time.