



South Washington County Schools

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Members of the School Board
Keith Jacobus, Superintendent

FROM: Mike Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
Julie Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent
Kristine Schaefer, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: October 1, 2019

TOPIC/PURPOSE OF REPORT: Intra District Transfer and Open Enrollment Parameters 2020-2021

REFERENCE TO POLICY/STRATEGIC PLAN: Policy 509 & 509.1

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION: First Reading - Information

DATE FOR BOARD ACTION: October 10, 2019

REPORT

The attached report includes the enrollment guidelines being recommended as part of the implementation of Board Policy 509.1 and 509. This report is being shared as an information item with the recommendation for final approval on October 24, 2019.

Board Policy 509.1, Intra-District Transfers, provides the opportunity for District 833 resident families to request to have their child attend a school outside of their assigned attendance boundaries. Attached are the recommended parameters for elementary, middle and high school.

Board Policy 509, Open Enrollment, provides non-resident families the opportunity to attend a District 833 school. The open enrollment statute allows the board to pass a resolution to limit the open enrollment of non-resident students to a number not less than 1% of the total enrollment at each grade level in the district. Attached you will find the parameters outlining the acceptance of non-resident families into our school district.

District 833 2020-2021 Intra-District Transfer Parameters

The following Intra-District Transfer guidelines, for resident students of South Washington County Schools, will take effect for 2020-2021 school year. The Intra-District Transfer application window opens on October 15, 2019 for secondary students and December 1, 2019 for elementary students. Initial requests for secondary student transfers are due no later than 4 p.m. on, December 15, 2019 and initial requests for elementary school transfers are due no later than 4 p.m. on, March 1, 2020. Applications received after the initial due dates will be added to existing waiting lists until the first day of the school year. Requests received after the first day of school will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Elementary Schools

1. Intra-district transfer requests for the 2020-2021 school year may be granted for all elementary schools on a space available basis subject to the approval of the Assistant Superintendents.
2. Acceptance of a student under an intra-district transfer shall be granted after the staffing levels for the schools have been determined and shall not increase the number of students at a grade level within the receiving school beyond 90% of the established classroom capacity for that grade level.
3. Transfer approvals will be limited to a net +/- 3% above or below the assigned attendance boundary enrollment per grade level.
4. Younger siblings will have priority if their older brothers or sisters are currently on an approved intra-district transfer. The approval is still subject to space being available in the school and at the grade level requested.
5. Acceptance of a student under an intra-district transfer shall not increase staffing requirements at the school receiving the student.
6. Students approved for an intra-district transfer in one year shall be included in the enrollment projections of the receiving school in future years for staffing purposes.
7. New kindergarten students in the fall of 2020 who have an elementary sibling already attending a school under an intra-district transfer will be enrolled in the intra-district transfer school unless otherwise requested.
8. Applications for initial consideration to transfer to another elementary school outside of the assigned attendance boundary should be submitted by March 1, 2020.
9. If the number of intra-district transfer requests exceeds the available space in a grade level, the order of approval shall be determined by selection through a lottery process. Applications submitted after March 1, 2020 will be added to the existing waiting list created for each school.
10. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing transportation to and from school and adhere to school start and end times in every instance where an intra-district transfer has been approved.
11. Families must reapply if requesting enrollment at a school outside the assigned attendance boundary when school transitions occur (elementary to middle; middle to high school).
12. The School Board shall review the outcome of the intra-district transfer policy for elementary schools and make recommendations for the following school year.

Middle Schools

1. Intra-district transfer requests for the 2020-2021 school year may be granted on a space available basis subject to approval of the Assistant Superintendents.
2. Transfer approvals will be limited to a net +/- 3% above or below the assigned attendance boundary enrollment per grade level.
3. Acceptance of a student under an intra-district transfer shall not increase staffing requirements at the school receiving the student.
4. Students approved for an intra-district transfer in one year shall be included in the enrollment projections of the receiving school in future years for staffing purposes.
5. Applications for initial consideration to transfer to another middle school outside the assigned attendance boundary should be submitted by December 15, 2019.
6. If the number of intra-district transfer requests exceeds the available space in a grade level, the order of approval shall be determined by selection through a lottery process. Applications submitted after December 15, 2019 will be added to the existing waiting list created for schools.
7. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing transportation to and from school and adhere to school start and end times in every instance where an intra-district transfer has been approved.
8. Families must reapply if requesting enrollment outside the assigned attendance boundary when school transitions occur (elementary to middle; middle to high school).
9. The School Board shall review the intra-district transfer policy each year and make recommendations for the following school year.

High Schools

1. Intra-district transfer requests may be granted on a space available basis subject to the approval of the Assistant Superintendents.
2. Transfer approvals will be limited to a net +/- 3% above or below the assigned attendance boundary enrollment per grade level to assure that space is used efficiently and that no site is over capacity or student opportunities diminished due to significant loss of enrollment.
3. Should net requests to a school exceed +/- 3% above or below the assigned attendance boundary enrollment per grade level, a lottery process will determine the order of approval.
4. Students approved for an intra-district transfer in one year shall be included in the enrollment projections of the receiving school in future years for staffing purposes.
5. Eligibility for athletic participation related to a transfer to a different school would be under the rules and guidelines of the Minnesota State High School League. MSHSL has ultimate authority in these matters. **Note:** the MSHSL already recognizes International Baccalaureate as an exception to their transfer eligibility policy.
6. Acceptance of a student under an intra-district transfer shall not increase staffing requirements at the school receiving the student.
7. Applications for initial consideration to transfer to another high school outside the assigned attendance boundary should be submitted by December 15, 2019. Applications

submitted after December 15, 2019 will be added to the existing waiting list created for schools.

8. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing transportation to and from school and adhere to school start and end times in every instance where an intra-district transfer has been approved.
9. The School Board shall review the intra-district transfer policy each year and make recommendations for the following school year.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

1. Applications for initial acceptance under Open Enrollment will begin December 1, 2019 and are due no later than 4 p.m. on January 15, 2020. Notification regarding acceptance will occur by February 15, 2020. Applications submitted after January 15, 2020 will receive a decision letter by mail within 45 days of receipt of the application.
2. Open enrollment for non-resident students will be set at a minimum of 1% and a maximum of 3% beginning in 2020-2021. Liberty Ridge Elementary School, Grey Cloud Elementary School, Red Rock Elementary School, Woodbury Middle School, Lake Middle School, Oltman Middle School, East Ridge High School and Woodbury High School are all closed to additional open enrollment students due to capacity constraints.
3. Schools and/or grades meeting or exceeding the thresholds for intra-district transfer considerations have also met the criteria for being closed to open enrollment.
4. Students moving during the school year outside of the South Washington County Schools attendance boundaries may apply for open enrollment and be able to finish the school year at the current school. However, the student(s) may be assigned to a different school the next year.
5. Open enrolled students will continue at their assigned school throughout their years at each level. Families are provided with the opportunity to indicate their preferred school, when school transitions occur (elementary to middle; middle to high school). The district retains the right to assign non-resident students to sites other than direct feeder schools when these transitions occur, based upon capacity and program.