

## Policy and Regulation

### 4.01.03 - Parent Choice of Schools

Policy Approved: 2013.10.09

#### POLICY

The Board of Trustees recognizes that the primary purpose of the schools is to provide educational services to the resident students of the District. The Board of Trustees believes that parents should have the right of choice of schools within the District, to the extent that such choice is feasible. The Board of Trustees further recognizes that, under certain conditions, advantages may accrue to both the District and resident students from accepting non-resident students who may wish to apply for accommodation in regular programs in District schools.

The Board of Trustees must approve regulations covering parent choice of schools.

#### DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these regulations:

1. Regular programs shall be defined as those instructional programs for kindergarten to grade 12 students for which a non-resident tuition fee is not assessed by the Board of Trustees.
2. Resident students shall be defined as those students who are resident students of the Red Deer Public School District No. 104 according to the School Act.

#### REGULATION

1. The Board of Trustees shall establish attendance boundaries for District schools.
2. The following priorities are established for the acceptance of students in schools for regular programs:
  - Priority One students:** Students who are resident students living within the boundaries of the school - application by parent not required; or, Students who are resident students living outside the boundaries of the school wishing to take an appropriate program which is not available within their home boundary - subject to application by parent.
  - Priority Two Students:** Students who are resident students living outside the boundaries of the school wishing to take a program which is available within their home boundary -subject to application by parent.
  - Priority Three Students:** Students who are not resident students - subject to application by parent.

Priority One Students who live outside the boundaries of a school and who are not accepted in their program of choice due to course enrolment limitations, shall be deemed to be Priority Two students if they still wish to attend that school.

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3. The principal shall decide whether to accept a student on the basis of the following:
  - a. Priority One students shall be accepted.
  - b. Priority Two and Priority Three students shall be accepted if space and resources are available.
4. Regulation 3 notwithstanding, the principal may reject the application of a student if the principal determines that an appropriate program is not available for the student in that school. The principal may refer the student to Student Services for placement consideration.
5. A Priority One student whose parent moves to a residence outside the boundaries of the school will be considered to be a Priority Two or Three student and shall be considered for continued enrolment at the school subject to clause 3(b) above.
6. Acceptance for a Priority Two or Three student will be granted on a year to year basis for the duration of the student's program at the school. The acceptance will be reviewed annually by the school principal in consultation with the parent. The parent of a Priority Two or Three student wishing to enroll their child in a school other than the school in which their child has been accepted shall make application to the principal of the school in which they wish their child to be enrolled. This shall include the transition points in the feeder school system. E.g. when a parent of a Priority Two or Three student who has been accepted at an elementary school wishes to have their child enrolled in the middle school into which the elementary school feeds.
7. The parent of accepted Priority Two and Priority Three students shall be informed in writing, that the acceptance is specific to that school. If the parent subsequently desires to transfer the student to another school, separate application must be made.
8. The parent of accepted Priority Two and Priority Three students shall be informed that transportation to and from school shall be the responsibility of the parent.
9. The decision to accept a student shall be binding for the duration of the program in that school.
10. The above notwithstanding, if a boundary change is required between schools, then all students within the grade levels affected by the boundary change shall be treated similarly.

#### **RELATED FORM(S):**

- [4.01.03 School of Choice](#)
- [4.01.03 Out of City Student Acceptance Form](#)