

Book
Policy Manual

Section
5000 Students

Title
SCHOOL CHOICE

Code
po5113.02

Status
Active

Legal
F.S. 1001.32(2)
F.S. 1001.41(1) & (2), (5) & (6)
F.S. 1001.42(4)(a), (28)
F.S. 1001.43(6)
F.S. 1002.20(6)(a)
F.S. 1002.31

Adopted
June 19, 2012

Last Revised
March 21, 2017

5113.02 - **SCHOOL CHOICE**

School choice is an option which may be available to resident and nonresident students subject to the conditions described below. Reassignment approval does not guarantee eligibility for athletic teams or other extra-curricular activities.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and approval of the School Board, the District's controlled open enrollment plan will be submitted to the Commissioner of Education as required by Florida statute.

Resident Students

All students may be permitted to attend a school other than the school serving the parents' residential area by completing a parental choice request form and submitting the form for approval or disapproval by the Superintendent or designee. All placements are dependent upon available space/seats. The parent is responsible for transporting the student.

Loss of School Choice Privilege

Students may be returned to the school in his/her assigned attendance area, if s/he becomes a discipline, attendance, and/or truancy problem.

Controlled Open Enrollment

Students may be granted choice assignments to schools that are not at capacity and would not exceed capacity as a result of such assignments.

A. Capacity/Projected Enrollment

The following subsections are criteria for participation in controlled open enrollment:

1. The proposed receiving school must be identified on the District approved COE receiving school list because it has not reached seventy-five percent (75%) capacity under the Florida Inventory of School

Houses (FISH); as may be adjusted based on specific program or planning considerations. This list shall appear on the District's Department of School Choice website. The Department of Facilities Planning will incorporate the specifications, plans, elements, and commitments contained in the School District educational facilities plan and the long-term work programs required under F.S. 1013.35, as well as other planning considerations such as anticipated enrollment growth and pending boundary changes, into their capacity determinations.

2. ESE students are eligible to apply to all programs and eligible schools including COE. If there is capacity at the school, an IEP review will occur by the ESE Department.
3. Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K): Because Pre-K is not a mandatory program, controlled open enrollment options are not available for pre-K students.
4. Charter Schools: This policy does not address controlled open enrollment procedures for charter schools, which are required to comply with provisions relating to them within F.S. 1002.31.

B. Process for Assignment through Controlled Open Enrollment

1. Applications for controlled open enrollment must be submitted to the Department of School Choice using the MCSD Choice Form. This form will be available on District's Department of School Choice website.
2. COE application dates are provided annually on the District website. For any school year, parents may apply for admission of the student to a maximum of three (3) schools under the COE. Applicants selecting schools having more applications than there are seats available will be subject to a random number generator program for lottery selection. Applicants who applied for assignment to more than one (1) school will be considered for each school listed in order of preference. For purposes of continuity of educational choice, a student who transfers pursuant to this section may remain at the choice school until the student completes the highest grade level at that school.
3. If a student assigned to a school through COE fails to enroll in that school within five (5) days of the start of the school year, the student will forfeit the COE assignment and will not be considered eligible for COE that school year. Students not assigned to a school through COE are eligible to reapply during the next application cycle.

C. Priority of Selection Process for Assignment through School Choice shall be based on a first come first served basis in the following order to include:

1. dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders;
2. children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone;
3. children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent;
4. Students who reside in Martin County enrolled in a D, F, or low 300 school at the time of application.
5. students who reside in Martin County;
6. children of current MCSD employees;
7. siblings* of students meeting the above criteria, already attending and who will continue to attend the requested school the following year;
8. siblings* applying together to the same school.

*Siblings are defined as brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother, or stepsister, living in the same household. Verification will be required.

After all students meeting the criteria above are considered, a preference for students meeting the following criteria will be provided:

1. students coming from out of county and enrolled in a D, F or low 300 school at the time of COE.

2. other non-resident students.

D. Scope of Assignment

An assignment through COE shall remain in effect until the last grade available in that school. Students on assignment will not continue in the feeder pattern to the next school level unless assigned to that school through COE.

1. Notification

Parents/Legal guardians will be notified of assignments and application status through e-mail notification and/or United States Postal Service (USPS).

2. Transportation

Transportation will not be provided for students who are assigned to a school through COE.

3. Extra-curricular Activities

The District's Controlled Open Enrollment Plan (COEP) will follow the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) policies, School Board Policy 2431.01, and the statutory provisions in F.S. 1002.31 regarding controlled open enrollment and reassignment. Information can be found at www.fhsaa.org.

4. Return to Assigned School or District

Upon request, a student shall be permitted to return to the assigned school serving his/her attendance zone or zoned District; however, it is recommended that the student return at the end of the marking period or semester.

COE school choice options will be provided annually in writing to all students of the Martin County School District.

Effective 7/1/12
Revised 3/21/17

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