

5120 ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS

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The Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools to assign elementary students to the schools of the District. This policy defines the considerations and procedures for the assignment of students to the schools, programs, and classes of this district, weighing the best interests of students and the best utilization of the buildings and optimum space provisions for instructional purposes.

The Board of Education shall establish the school boundaries of each elementary school in the district. Adjustments to boundaries shall not affect the same occupied dwellings any more often than once in three years.

Considerations and Procedures

Once a student has been assigned a school building, the Building Principal may assign students in his/her school to grades, classes, and groups on the basis of the needs of the student as well as the sound administration of the school.

Residents who have purchased a home or signed a lease within the school district by July 1, 2017 will be allowed to attend their home school. Assignments for those individuals arriving any time after July 1, 2017, or at another date in the middle of the school year, will be made as soon as is practicable by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee according to the parameters outlined herein.

In-District Resident Adjustments

In all in-district resident adjustment cases, parents will be responsible for providing transportation for the student(s) to and from school, unless transportation is required to be provided by law or an individual student's IEP.

Out-of-District Residence Adjustments

If a student in grade Kindergarten through eleven moves out-of-district after January 31 of any given school year, that student will be permitted to continue attending school in the district for the remainder of that school year.

If a student in grade twelve moves out-of-district but attends school for one day in Fair Lawn, that student will be permitted to continue attending school in the district for the remainder of that school year.

All tuition determinations shall be made in accordance with Policy 6150.



Annual Capacity Adjustments For Over Enrollment

Even though the Board of Education establishes the permanent elementary boundaries, the Superintendent of Schools shall annually review existing and projected enrollment for all elementary schools. If the school capacity cannot accommodate the expected enrollment in a particular school(s), the Superintendent will identify the need for a one year capacity adjustment and identify a school(s) that has capacity to accept the over enrollment.

The Superintendent may consider class size, safe student transportation and travel; convenience of access to the schools; financial and administrative efficiency, the effectiveness of the instructional program, and a wholesome and educationally sound balance of student populations. In no case, shall siblings be separated on the basis of this policy. The Superintendent may invite families to volunteer to attend another available school within the district. There may be circumstances under which volunteer requests may be requested and not be honored.

In the event that volunteerism does not sufficiently remediate the over enrollment, the Superintendent may assign a student to a school. These assignments may result in a student being placed at any school(s) with availability. If there is more than one school with availability, the parent/guardian shall have the option to choose the school. The Superintendent shall not make any involuntary adjustments to the household assignments when a child within a particular household is currently assigned to and attending the elementary school assigned to such home.

Students reassigned under this annual capacity adjustment will generally be allowed to complete their education in that school. The Superintendent will provide an annual report on Annual Capacity Adjustments to the Board of Education after all placements have been made.

Parents of a student who was not assigned to his/her home school shall be permitted to choose which middle school he/she will attend.

Twins or Higher Order Multiples

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38.a.(1), a parent of twins or higher order multiples enrolled in the same Kindergarten through eighth grade level at the same public school may request, in writing, the children be placed in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. The Principal shall make the classroom placement requested in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A: 38.a.(1).

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38.a.(2), a parent of twins or higher order multiples enrolled in the same ninth through twelfth grade level at the same public school may request, in writing, the children be placed in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. The placement of such children shall be made at the discretion of the Principal in the best interest of



the school and its students. The parent may appeal the Principal's classroom placement decision to the Board of Education, which shall make a final determination on the placement.

The written request must be submitted to the Principal no later than fourteen days after the first day of each school year. Parents of twins or higher order multiples enrolling after the school year commences shall request the classroom placement in writing no later than fourteen days after the first day of attendance.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38(2)(b), a Principal may, after consultation with the students' parent and teachers at the end of the initial grading period, request the Board make a different classroom placement determination for the twins or higher order multiples if the initial classroom placement is determined to be disruptive to any of the students in the class or classes, or if the Principal concludes the initial placement does not sufficiently support the students' academic or social development. Upon receiving such request, the Board shall make a final classroom placement determination.

"Higher order multiples" means triplets, quadruplets, quintuplets, or larger group siblings born at one birth. Provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38 do not apply to a school district which maintains only a single classroom for the grade level in which twins or higher order multiples are enrolled. The parent shall be responsible for any additional student transportation costs that are incurred by the district as a result of providing the requested classroom placement, unless the district is in agreement with the placement. In the event one of the twins or higher order multiples receives special education services, the requested placement shall not be accommodated if the placement is inconsistent with a student's Individualized Education Plan.

The Superintendent of Schools may make exceptions to this policy for extraordinary reasons. Requests for exceptions to school assignments shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools.

This policy will sunset on July 1, 2020.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38

