

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT TO SCHOOLS

Special permission to attend school outside of the normal geographical assignment area has been recognized in the past in cases of working parents having supervision problems before or after school hours or in the other cases of extreme hardship. These policies will continue to recognize these needs when appropriate. However, above the 7th grade, because of the reduced need for parental supervision, extreme hardships will be recognized only after the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance is satisfied; in addition, students above the 7th grade will be subject to the limitations of the recommended policy.

Any child temporarily residing within the district who has no permanent address, or who has been abandoned by his/her parent, or who is in foster care, shall be enrolled and allowed to attend school in the zone appropriate to the special circumstance of the child. Surrogate parents may be appointed when appropriate for special needs students.

1. Normal Assignment

Under regulations established by the Louisiana Legislature, the School Board, or its designated representative, shall, each year, determine the particular public school within the parish to be attended by each school child applying for admission to public schools. No school child shall be entitled to be enrolled or enter a public school until he/she has been assigned thereto by the Superintendent. Applications for assignments are processed by the Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance.

2. Special Permissions and School Re-Assignment--Kindergarten through 7th Grade

Requests for special permission or school re-assignment below 7th grade will be received in cases of extreme hardship; above the 7th grade, requests will be considered only in extraordinary circumstances. At no time will requests be considered in cases reflecting preferential school assignment.

3. School Re-Assignment--8th Grade through 12th Grade

A. All students assigned by special permission or school re-assignment to secondary schools located outside of their parent's residential assignment area, including those whose parents are domiciled in neighboring parishes, shall be denied participation in all competitive extracurricular activities involving interschool or interparish performance.

This includes those who, through emancipation, have obtained special permission or re-assignment to attend a school other than that of the parent's residential assignment.

Competitive extracurricular activities shall include:

- (1) Interscholastic athletics
- (2) Band and all auxiliary components (excluding music instruction)
- (3) Drill Squad
- (4) Cheerleaders
- (5) Choir (excluding choir as a course)

B. Unique performance programs shall be excluded from the above regulation

Unique activities shall include:

- (1) Special academic programs
- (2) Athletic programs not offered at other senior high schools

C. Senior privileges

Once a student has attained senior status, he/she will be given the option of remaining in or changing schools if his/her parents made a bona fide move. If the student elects to remain in his/her present high school, he/she will enjoy all rights and privileges of a regular student.

D. High School Athletic Association

In accordance with Louisiana High School Athletic Association Policy 1.22.1, the child of an on-staff full-time school administrator or coach is allowed to attend and participate at his/her parent's school, provided the administrator or coach has been employed a minimum of three (3) years.

E. Appeals process

In cases where parents or guardians feel that there is a valid reason for a student to be granted special permission to attend a school outside of his/her normal assignment area, with all privileges for participation in all competitive extracurricular activities being granted, a formal request for a hearing will be submitted through the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance. A committee composed of the principals of the schools involved and at least two (2) staff members shall explore all the facts pertaining to the request. The committee will make its recommendation to the School Board for a decision. The decision of the School Board shall be final.

4. Assignment of students with exceptionalities

Unless the *Individualized Education Program* (IEP) of a student with an exceptionality, except a gifted and talented student, requires some other

arrangement, the School Board shall require the student with such an exceptionality to be educated in the school that the student would attend if he/she did not have an exceptionality. However, if the educational needs of the student cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a regular class setting, the student may be placed in an educational environment designed to meet the appropriate needs of the student, as determined by the IEP committee.

However, a student with an exceptionality, except a gifted and talented student, shall be assigned to a school as requested by the parent, in accordance with La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:1944, if all the following conditions are met:

- A. The parent submits a written request to the School Board responsible for the student and the respective School Board having jurisdiction over the school being requested, by not later than April first of the school year preceding the school year for which the parent is requesting the school assignment. The request shall include a recommendation from at least two (2) licensed physicians who have treated the student during the year prior to the submission of the request.
- B. The School Board responsible for the student and the respective School Board having jurisdiction over the school being requested by the parent enter into an agreement for the assignment of the student to the requested school.
- C. The requested school is located at least ten (10) miles from the school to which the student is assigned, in accordance with applicable school attendance zone requirements.
- D. The requested school is located at least fifteen (15) miles from the student's home.
- E. The requested school is not located in a public school district in which fifty percent (50%) or more of the public schools in the district are charter schools and fifty percent (50%) or more of the public schools in the district participate in a single application and enrollment process for public school enrollment.

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:238; Board minutes, 5-8-79, 3-19-91, 2-21-95, 8-19-03, 2-23-10, October 2013 (CWA update), July 2014 (CWA update), 2-7-17.