



## **INTRA-RSU SCHOOL CHOICE**

The Regional School Unit-24 (RSU) Board (RSUB) will permit parents to select which school within the RSU their children will attend, subject to the guidelines listed below.

NOTE: In RSU Policies, “parent” refers to a student’s parent or legal guardian.

Priority will always be given to students wishing to attend a school in the hometown/municipality where they and/or their parents reside.

Budget conditions may affect student placement opportunities, and will always be a “variable” factor.

In order to provide for adequate planning, the (RSUB) has established the following process:

1. An initial school choice application must be completed by the parent no earlier than April 1<sup>st</sup> and no later than May 1st of the year preceding the school year in which the student desires to attend a “non hometown” RSU school. A student who is accepted by a school of their choice may be required to re-apply each year; however the RSU will make every effort to allow the child to remain in the school of their choice. Parents will have to submit a request if they desire the student to return to the original (or a different) RSU school.
2. School choice may not be allowed if it requires the hiring of additional staff and/or modifications in the programming at either school. Likewise, any movement of a student(s) that causes cancelation of a class or drops a class below 10 students may not be allowed.  
NOTE: Transfers causing either of these conditions require approval of the RSUB.
3. The Superintendent will take steps to prevent overcrowding of classrooms, and will always attempt to ensure there is sufficient space available to accept students that may move into the local school community
4. Approval of school choice applications will be determined by the Superintendent and this decision shall be final. Exception: paragraphs # 2 above and # 6-a below.
5. Parents will be notified in writing as soon as possible, but normally not later than June 15<sup>th</sup> of the “approval number” of their child’s placement request for the following year. Approved requests will be numbered, by school requested, in the order they were received, with the actual assignment being announced not later than one (1) week prior to the start of the school year. This procedure is required to ensure class sizes do not exceed established limits.
6. Requests to transfer a student within the RSU will normally be discussed between the Building Administrator (BA) of both the sending and receiving school, however the final decision remains with the Superintendent, unless the following class size limits will be exceeded:

- a. Class sizes of 18 or less are considered instructionally sound for grades PK-2, and class sizes of 20 or less are considered sound for grades 3-8. School choice will not be approved if the transfer will increase a class sizes beyond these limits, without specific RSUB approval.
- b. Grade 9 through 12 class sizes, both minimum and/or maximum will be determined by the BA's and superintendent on an individual basis.

Students who move to the RSU during the school year are not normally eligible for school choice unless it is deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

The RSUB acknowledges that many unpredictable issues may arise in school choice and assigns responsibility to resolve these to the superintendent. School choice issues that arise which are outside the realm of this Policy may be brought to the RSUB for resolution at the option of the Superintendent.

The RSUB will receive a complete report of school choice placements by October of each year, and may choose to discuss ways to improve the school choice process.

It is the intent of the RSU to provide transportation for all RSU students, however school choice placements requested that are not on current RSU school bus routes will be the responsibility of the parent. The Transportation Director will advise the Superintendent as to how/why such transportation could/could not be provided, and any costs and consequences involved. The Superintendent will make a determination and advise the RSUB, and the parent (in writing) as soon as possible.

(First - First Reading: January 26, 2010)

Second First Reading: August 3, 2010

Approved: August 17, 2010