

STUDENT SERVICES

File: JC

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONES

A. Establishment of Zones

School attendance zones for each school are established by the Board. In the establishment of such zones, the Board considers, among other things, the capacity of a school, the number of school-age children living in a given area, city limits, natural boundaries and major traffic areas, the safety of students going to and from school, and the number of children living in a given area who qualify for free and reduced meals. A separate attendance zone is established for each preK-4 school and a single citywide attendance zone is established for schools serving students in grades 5-12.

Changes in attendance areas are determined by the School Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent based on the need to provide for the orderly administration of the schools, the competent instruction of the students, and the health, safety, best interests and general welfare of all students.

B. School Zone Attendance Requirements for Resident Students

All resident students shall attend the school which serves the attendance zone in which they reside except under special conditions approved by the Board. The residence of the person having legal custody of the student is considered the residence of the student. The Board reserves the right to verify the residency of any student.

C. Requests for Out of School zone Attendance by Resident Students

A parental request for out of school zone attendance by a resident student may be considered under the limited circumstances set forth below:

- Grade K-4 student child care issues. The parent/guardian must demonstrate hardship in providing appropriate supervision for the child in the designated school area where the parent/guardian resides. Factors the School Division will consider include, but are not limited to, the age of the child, lack of childcare providers in the designated school area, personal circumstances within the parent/guardian's household (i.e., the parent/guardian work schedule, ability to pay for child care, among others), length of time child has been with child care provider, type of care situation (private home vs. daycare center), and family relation to the childcare provider, advantages of the care to be provided in the requested area, and whether the provider will provide safe and punctual transportation to/from the requested school.

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- Change of residence during the course of a school year. A student changing residence within the city shall be permitted to complete the school year in the school in which he/she was in attendance, and the parent/guardian must provide transportation to and from school. A student who has attended a school for at least three years and moves to another residence in the city is eligible to complete his/her education at the school he/she was attending, and the parent/guardian must provide transportation. If the student has not been in attendance for three years, the student shall enroll in and attend the school serving the attendance zone in which he/she resides at the beginning of the next school year.

D. Application for Out of School Zone Attendance

A request for out of school zone attendance must be made on a form provided by the School Division. The form shall be submitted to the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Administration who will forward a copy to the office of the principal of the desired school of attendance. A request based upon convenience or personal preference shall not be considered. Out of zone attendance may be approved only when the approval does not exceed the optimum student capacity, as determined by the Superintendent, of the grade and school requested. The Assistant Superintendent for Administration, in a timely manner, shall provide an applicant with written notification of the approval or denial of a request. Approval, if granted, is valid only for the school year in which it is received and a parent/guardian shall reapply in writing each school year for consideration. Falsification of any information stated in a request will be cause for immediate revocation of out of school zone attendance permission and no further application shall be considered.

Approval of out of zone attendance can be revoked by the Superintendent or his/her designee with written notification to the parent/legal guardian. Reasons for revocation include, but are not limited to, overcrowding, poor attendance, habitual tardiness, failure to provide safe and punctual transportation, Code of Conduct violations, and any action or behavior by the student or parent/legal guardian that is disruptive to and/or interferes with the educational process.

E. Homelessness

Federal and state mandates regarding the admission of homeless students shall supercede Board policies or regulations related to out of school zone attendance by resident students.

Approved: April 3, 2003
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Legal References: Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79

Cross References: JCA Transfer by Student Victims of Crime
JCB Transfers by Students in Persistently Dangerous Schools