

# Addison Northwest School Board Policy

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**SECTION: STUDENTS**

**CODE: C41**

**TITLE: Intra-District Elementary School Choice Policy**

As a pilot program, the following school choice policy governs the 2018-2019 academic year and will be reevaluated for subsequent years.

It is the policy of the ANWSD to offer parents/guardians elementary school choice within the District. School choice decisions will be guided by the needs of students, parents/guardians/families, and the schools within the District. Choice may be limited only where necessary to the legitimate operational needs of the District and any applicable legal requirements.

In 2018-2019, school choice requests will be accepted up to 5% of an individual school's current enrollment. If more than 5% of the school's enrollment request school choice, then a non-discriminatory lottery will be held.

## **Implementation of In-District Choice Program**

ANWSD shall permit students to attend an in-district elementary school other than their home school based on residency with the following limitations:

1. Students must be eligible for enrollment in their home school attendance area in order to be eligible for enrollment in this school choice program. For purposes of determining residency, the board will apply the definitions contained in 16 V.S.A. §1075(a).
2. Choice students must be accepted on a nondiscriminatory basis.
3. Choice requests may be denied if the requested move would have negative impacts on class size or staffing at the sending or receiving school or due to other extenuating circumstances. The determination of approval or denial will be made by the Superintendent. Once applications are received, the elementary Principals, with the Superintendent will determine the status for all parent/guardian applications. If there is more interest in one particular school and/or grade than space available, the Superintendent will conduct a lottery.
4. Each choice student shall be assured the opportunity for enrollment in that school until the end of elementary school or for as long as the student continues to reside in the ANWSD.
5. Students participating in the in-district choice program do not need to reapply for subsequent years.
6. In subsequent years, younger siblings entering school after a child who has moved to a different school through the school choice may attend the same school as his or her older siblings. We will make every effort to meet the needs of families so children in the same family can enroll in the same school.
7. Transportation is the responsibility of the student's family and may not be provided to students participating in the in-district choice program.
8. Requests for consideration must be made in writing – by completing appropriate application documents – by the date determined by the Superintendent during the previous academic year. The requests will be considered based on impacts outlined in number three (3) above or in light of any other extenuating circumstances. The Superintendent will make decisions regarding an application by April 15<sup>th</sup> and parents will be notified in writing as soon as the decision has been made.
9. Decisions regarding student choice shall be made by the Superintendent. Decisions by the Superintendent are final and not subject to appeal.
10. Students that participate in this program and attend a different elementary school other than their home school of residence will be expected to remain at the new location through the remainder of the particular school year, unless there are extenuating circumstances to be considered by the

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Superintendent. Students who move to a new school through school choice are encouraged to remain through the end of elementary grades if possible.

11. These protocols are in no way intended to apply to mid-year requests for transfer of students (See Policy C40).

*Date Warned:* 12/5/2017

*Date Adopted:*

*Legal Reference:* 16 V.S.A. §1075(a)

*Cross Reference:*