



MSDWT Enrollment Rebalancing FAQ

Limited Choice and Nonresident Students/ Grandfathering

Q. Will the practice of accepting Nonresident students (students living outside of the MSDWT) continue?

A. Yes. During the referendum process, the administration and the School Board made clear that this process would continue. Our District has been and continues to be a District that is desirable to families both inside and outside of our attendance boundaries resident students and families contribute to our diverse student body. Our stakeholders have repeatedly shared a belief that this diversity is a key asset to the MSDWT.

Q. Will the Limited Choice Program continue when the new 2019-2020 attendance boundaries are established?

A. Yes. Because the District accepts Nonresident student applications, we believe that in-district families should also have the opportunity to apply for enrollment in any of our K-5 or 6-8 buildings.

Q. What are the criteria used when determining acceptance of Limited Choice and Nonresident applications?

A. Both Limited Choice and Nonresident applications are considered on the basis of capacity as well as an additional consideration for a faculty member applying for enrollment of his or her child to attend where the faculty member is employed. Student enrollment numbers in each grade level in each District elementary and middle school are compared to the District student/teacher ratio guidelines.

Applications are considered by grade level based on capacity in each school. Therefore, families may receive approval for one student but be denied Limited Choice or Nonresident status for additional siblings.

All Nonresident applications are considered on an annual basis. Accepted applications are not automatically renewed each year.

The District reviews all Limited Choice applications and approves placements annually based on the capacity of each grade level on a school-by-school basis.

Q. For the 2019-2020 school year, will there be a different process for Limited Choice applicants?

A. The District administration's current recommendation includes the following procedures for the 2019-2020 Limited Choice applications. The School Board will be considering these recommendations during the time leading up to the May 9, 2018 final recommendation. Parents are encouraged to stay informed by reviewing the School Board meetings on March 14 and April 11, 2018.

- All families, when reviewing attendance boundary options, should assume that their children will be required to attend the school assigned to their home's attendance boundary;
- No current Limited Choice family will be automatically assigned Limited Choice status in their current Limited Choice school location (there will be no "Grandfathering" of students);



- All *current* Limited Choice families desiring a Limited Choice placement must re-apply for the 2019-2020 school year;
- Limited Choice applications will be available after the start of the 2018-2019 school year (during the Month of August, 2018);
- The Limited Choice application timeline will open prior to the Nonresident application timeline;
- Limited Choice applications will be considered prior to considering Nonresident applications;
- Priority will be given to employees applying for a Limited Choice placement in the school of their employment;
- When applications outnumber capacity, families will be selected randomly. Parents/Guardians will be contacted and given the opportunity to accept the placement.

Q. Will students be able to stay in their current school when new attendance boundaries take effect? A practice sometimes referred to as “Grandfathering.”

- A. Only families approved for Limited Choice status will be able to attend an elementary school or middle school different from their assigned attendance boundary. Because all District elementary and middle schools will be affected by this Enrollment Rebalancing process, we are unable to accurately predict our ability to avoid overcrowding schools by allowing this type of choice.