

## **CHOICE ENROLLMENT: 3131**

---

The District establishes attendance boundaries to support the neighborhood school concept, yet the District recognizes the need for flexibility and increased options for students for whom attendance at another school is desirable. In implementing the choice enrollment program, the District is not required to:

1. Establish and offer any particular program in a school if such program is not offered currently in such school;
2. Alter or waive any established eligibility criteria for participation in a particular program including age requirements, course prerequisites, and required levels of performance; or
3. Provide transportation to the school of choice.

A "choice enrollment school" is any school whose geographical attendance area does not include the student's residence.

Students shall be allowed to make application to and attend the school of their choice based upon space availability. Availability of space in the school or program will be determined by the Chief Financial Officer/designee, using the program capacity of the school and projected enrollment. A random lottery will be conducted when applications exceed available space.

The District reserves the right to base final decisions upon the needs of all schools in the district.

### **Resident applicants**

Students who reside within the district must apply to be considered for enrollment in a choice school. By accepting a Choice Enrollment placement, a student forfeits their space in their residential service area school. Should a student desire to return to the school in their assigned attendance area after accepting a Choice placement, the parent/guardian must submit the request in writing to the Business Office.

Students residing within the boundaries of Federal Way Public Schools shall have priority over non-resident students.

### **Non-resident applicants**

Students who reside outside the district may also apply to attend a school in the district. In-district transfer requests, however, will be considered prior to those from non-resident students. A Choice Transfer Request, formerly known as Release of Attendance, (waiver of claim of attendance reimbursement) from the student's resident district must accompany the application.

## **CHOICE ENROLLMENT: 3131**

---

The application of a non-resident district employee may be rejected if:

1. The student has been expelled or suspended from a public school for more than ten (10) consecutive days; or
2. The student’s disciplinary records indicate a history of violent or disruptive behavior or gang membership. (For the purposes of this policy, “gang” means a group, which consists of three or more persons, has identifiable leadership, and on an ongoing basis regularly conspires and acts in concert mainly for criminal purposes.)
3. Acceptance of a non-resident student would displace a child who is a resident of the district or result in the district experiencing a financial hardship.

The Superintendent/designee shall provide the non-resident applicant and their resident district written notification of the approval or denial of the application

### **Washington Interscholastic Activities Association**

High School students who request attendance area transfers are subject to the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association’ eligibility rules.

### **Students with Disabilities**

All students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and schools. A student with a disability will not be excluded from a program, except where careful consideration has been given to the services, modifications, or adjustments necessary for the student to participate, and where it has been determined that such services and modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the program and not allow the student to access a free and appropriate public education.

### **District Employees**

The District shall permit the children of permanent certificated and classified school employees to enroll in any school within the district, pending space availability, other than limited space programs, i.e., Federal Way Public Academy, Career Academy at Truman, Open Doors, Internet Academy; or residential schools whose programs have space limitations including Illahee Grade 5, Nautilus Grades 6-8, and Woodmont Grades 6-8, TAF@ Saghalee.

## **CHOICE ENROLLMENT: 3131**

---

### **Revocation**

Choice Enrollment may be revoked for excessive tardiness/absences or increased enrollment at Choice school causing overcrowding in school, grade, or program.

### **Appeal**

If the application is denied, the parent/guardian will be informed of the right to appeal the decision to the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee, if desired.

### **Communication:**

All students and parents will be notified of the choice enrollment policy and procedures using information distributed in all major languages and through a variety of media.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.225.225	Applications from non-resident students or students receiving home-based instruction to attend district school–School employees’ children–Acceptance and rejection standards–Notification
	RCW 28A.225.270	Intra-district enrollment options
	RCW 28A.225.300	Information to parents