

In-District Choice/Enrollment

Mapleton Public Schools (the “District”) prides itself as a “District of Choice”, meaning that in-District students may choose which of the District’s schools they wish to attend, regardless of where in the District they live. This policy and accompanying regulation (JFBA-R) directs the manner in which in-District (resident) students and their families make that choice.

The Welcome Center

Because Mapleton Public Schools offers educational programs that are unique and targeted toward fostering learning through various philosophies, the District has established the Welcome Center (centralized pre-registration) to assist families in making choices about which school to attend. Accordingly, all students new to the District, starting school for the first time, or thinking about switching schools should visit the Welcome Center to learn about their choices and to receive assistance in making this decision.

Enrollment/Transfer Within the Enrollment Window

In December of each year, Mapleton Public Schools will announce an enrollment period for in-District students for the upcoming school year. All current students will be notified of the enrollment period, and notice will also be posted on the website and other District publications. Students who are new to the District, starting school for the first time, or interested in transferring schools should visit the Welcome Center during the enrollment window to get the process started. The Welcome Center’s assessment of space available in a particular program or school shall be official. Students will be enrolled on a first-come, first-serve basis. See JFBA-R for the wait pool/lottery procedures.

Pursuant to state and federal law, students exercising choice under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) (e.g. when the school is on improvement status or designated as persistently dangerous, or when the student is a victim of a violent crime at school) have priority over other students.

Enrollment/Transfer Outside of the Enrollment Window

Students who move into the District during the school year, or who miss the enrollment window, should visit the Welcome Center as soon as possible. Students are enrolled on a first-come, first, serve basis, so although eligible in-District students will be permitted to enroll outside of the enrollment window, students will have to select from schools/programs with space available. Current students who wish to transfer to a different school outside of the enrollment window should first contact their School

Director. The Director will find out which schools have availability and advise the student and their family. In some circumstances, especially for high school students, the timeliness of a transfer could be important and the School Director will discuss the consequences of making a mid-session transfer as it pertains to credits earned, credits lost, and graduation date.

Auto-Enrollment for Subsequent School Years

Students who wish to attend the same school that they attended the previous school-year do not need to re-enroll. Students will be automatically re-enrolled each year unless the Welcome Center is notified otherwise. NOTE: Students who are changing schools to attend a grade level not offered at their current school (i.e. attending 9th grade after completing K-8 at one school) must complete a new application.

Transportation

As a “District of Choice,” Mapleton is committed to providing transportation to and from school for all in-District students regardless of the school’s location in relation to the student’s home. Families who do not live within walking distance (within one mile) of their school should contact Transportation Services prior to the start of the school year to find out bus stop locations. If there is not an existing bus stop close enough to the student’s home, Transportation Services should be notified within a reasonable time prior to the start of school and if necessary, appropriate adjustments to the transportation plan will be made. Transportation Services has policies and procedures in place to determine where bus stops are located and how the District makes decisions about transporting students to and from school. Homeless students and students with disabilities shall be transported, as necessary, in accordance with state and federal law. See policy JFABD: Homeless Students. Students attending District schools under the NCLB choice option shall be provided transportation at the District’s expense, to the extent required by law.

Nondiscrimination

The Board, the Superintendent, other administrators, and District employees shall not unlawfully discriminate based on a student’s race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, sex, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, disability, or need for special education services in the determination or recommendation of action under this policy.

Special Education Students

Requests from the parents of special education students for enrollment or transfer to another school or program shall be considered in accordance with applicable state and

federal laws. The student's current Individual Education Plan (IEP) shall be used to determine if the requested school or program can meet the student's needs.

Adopted November 19, 2013, by the Board of Education for Mapleton Public Schools.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

20 U.S.C. 7912 (*students who attend a school designated by state as persistently dangerous or who have been a victim of a violent crime at school have the option to transfer to a safe school within the district pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*)

C.R.S. § 22-1-102 (*definition of district resident*)

C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(m) (*power to fix boundaries*)

C.R.S. § 22-36-101 *et seq.* (*open enrollment*)

CROSS REFERENCES:

EEA: Student Transportation

IHBG: Home Schooling

JFABD: Homeless Students

JFBB: Inter-District Choice/Open Enrollment

JJJ: Extracurricular Activity Eligibility