

STUDENTS

SCHOOL CHOICE

The District will implement school choice in accordance with the requirements of Section 1116 of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("ESEA").

If a District 93 school is identified for school improvement under ESEA Section 1116, the District will, not later than the first day of the school year following the school improvement identification, provide all students enrolled in the school with the option to transfer to another grade-appropriate District 93 school, if any.

If a District 93 school is identified for corrective action or restructuring under ESEA Section 1116, the District will continue to provide all students enrolled in the school with the option to transfer to another grade-appropriate District 93 school, if any.

Exceptions to the School Choice Option

A student will not be allowed to transfer to any of the following attendance centers, except by change in residence:

- 1) An attendance center which has also been identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring under ESEA Section 1116.
- 2) An attendance center that exceeds or as a result of the transfer would exceed its attendance capacity.
- 3) An attendance center for which the Board has established academic criteria for enrollment, if the student does not meet the criteria. However, the transfer will be permitted if the attendance center is the only grade-appropriate attendance center which has not been identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring under ESEA Section 1116.
- 4) Any attendance center if the transfer would prevent the School District from meeting its obligations under a State or federal law, court order or consent decree applicable to the School District.

Transfer Request Deadline

Any request to transfer in accordance with this policy must be made within thirty (30) days after the parent or guardian receives notice of the right to transfer.

Notice to Parents

Prior to the first day of the subsequent school year, the District will provide the following information, in writing, to the parents of each student enrolled in a school identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring:

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- 1) An explanation of what the identification means, and how the school compares to other elementary or secondary schools in the District and in Illinois in the area of academic achievement;
- 2) The reasons for the identification;
- 3) An explanation of what the school is doing to address the problem of low achievement;
- 4) An explanation of what the District or the State is doing to help the school address the achievement problem;
- 5) An explanation of how parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement; and
- 6) An explanation of the school choice option, if any, including:
 - a) an explanation of the manner in which school choice may be elected; and
 - b) information regarding the District's transportation obligations.

First Priority Students

Space or financial limitations may restrict the number of children for whom school choice can be implemented. Among students exercising choice, the District will give priority to the lowest-achieving children from low-income families. The ranking will be determined by the District based upon information which may include individual state assessment scores and/or local assessment scores.

If school choice cannot be implemented for all priority students ranked at the same level, a random lottery process will be used.

Transportation

The District will provide (or pay for) transportation to the receiving school for any student who transfers in accordance with this policy. However, the District will cease to provide (or pay for) transportation at the end of any school year in which the District determines that the school from which the student transferred is no longer identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring.

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Guidelines for Transferring Students

Any student who transfers to another school in accordance with this policy will be enrolled in classes and other activities in the same manner as the other children attending the school.

A child who has transferred to another District school in accordance with this policy will be permitted to remain in that school until he or she has completed the highest grade in that school, or until he or she no longer resides in the District.

Intergovernmental Agreements

If school choice is unavailable because there is no other grade-appropriate school within the District, or because all other grade-appropriate schools within the District are identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring, the District will, to the extent practicable, enter into transfer agreements with other public School Districts in the area.

LEGAL REF.: Illinois *School Code* Section 10-21.3a (105 ILCS 5/10-21.3a); Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C.A. '6316)

Adopted: December 14, 2006