

Lower Merion School District

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Administrative Regulation No.: 206-2
Section: STUDENTS
Title: ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT-
ATTENDANCE AREA EXCEPTIONS
Date Last Revised: 9/10/21; 11/9/18; 1/23/14; 12/11/06

R206-2 ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT- ATTENDANCE AREA EXCEPTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL OR BEHAVIORAL CONCERNS

Board Policy 206 permits a change in attendance for children with emotional, social, or behavioral concerns when recommended by a clinical team, chaired by the Superintendent's designee, based on established criteria, which clearly demonstrates that a change in assignment is in the best interest of the District and student.

Referrals to Clinical Team

A school principal may, based on input from school personnel knowledgeable about a particular student, convene a clinical team ("Clinical Team") to consider an attendance area exception for the student. The Clinical Team shall consist of two or more individuals designated by the school principal to review the referral. One or more individuals should be aware of the student's emotional, social, or behavioral issues, and one or more individuals should be aware of the resources available to address the student's issues. An administrator from each of the potentially affected schools should also be included or consulted before the clinical team makes its recommendation. It is not necessary that a one-time formal meeting take place in order to constitute a clinical team review, e.g., a principal may review the request with different individuals at different times, as time and schedules permit. Although not necessary, a building child study team may review referrals and be consulted or included in the team.

Examples:

1. A referral is made for a current Lower Merion High School student to attend Harriton High School. The Lower Merion High School clinical team should include or consult with an administrator from Harriton High School before making a recommendation.
2. A referral is made for a Penn Valley Elementary School 5th grade student to attend Bala Cynwyd Middle School rather than Welsh Valley Middle School for middle school. The Penn Valley Elementary School clinical team should include or consult with both Bala Cynwyd Middle School and Welsh Valley Middle School before making a recommendation.

Administrators from each affected school are included in the process in order to ensure that the school where a student may be attending is aware of the student's needs and to ensure that accurate information is provided about the resources that the schools have to address the student's emotional, or behavioral concerns.

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Recommendations and Determination

The Clinical Team should not base recommendations for referrals on any of the following:

1. Availability of classes that appear to be available at the other High School except for International Baccalaureate which does not require an attendance exception.
2. Availability of activities that are only available at the other High School.
3. In order to play sports at the other school.
4. Travel convenience.
5. After-school care reasons.
6. Teacher/administrator selection.
7. Other reasons not directly related to social, emotional or behavioral problems that the clinical team believes can be addressed by the student attending a different school.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's Designee may use his or her discretion whether to follow the clinical team's recommendation but should exercise his or her discretion more liberally

1. when the team based its recommendation on criteria outside the scope of the policy; or
2. when compelling information about the student became available after the team made its recommendation.

Attendance area exception referrals for students who have IEPs

Any referral for a student with an IEP should first be considered by the student's IEP team to determine if there should be a change in placement based on the student's special education needs (e.g., because the student needs a special education program that is not available in the student's home school).