



Out -of-Zone Q&A

What is an out-of-zone request?

- An out-of-zone transfer request is a process to address situations that occur outside of the Open Enrollment process based on hardships.
- Documentation must be provided to support the request. (Policy JCA)

What is the application procedure?

- Applications for kindergarten through twelfth-grade students must be submitted online at www.sumterschools.net.
- Decisions will be emailed to parents regarding their requests to the email provided on the application.

How are students selected?

- Out-of-zone requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and the approval of the request is also contingent upon the space available in the requested school.

How is the number of available slots determined?

- Enrollment opportunities are based on the capacity of each school. Student/teacher ratios will not change, and schools will not be overcrowded. Due to space limitations at some of our schools, parents/guardians are encouraged to list more than one option for school choice on the application.



What are the reasons students could not be eligible for an out-of-zone transfer?

- Students may not have more than three Category One discipline offenses; two Category Two discipline offenses; or one Category Three discipline offense during the 2023- 2024 school year.
- Students may not have more than five (5) unlawful/unexcused absences during the 2023- 2024 school year.

Does a student have to reapply every year?

- A student approved for enrollment in a non-resident school is entitled to remain in that school until the completion of the final grade within the school *without* submitting annual applications. The only exception is that Oakland Primary automatically rolls over to Shaw Heights Elementary, and Shaw Heights Elementary rolls over to High Hills Elementary.

What happens when a student transitions from elementary to middle and middle to high school?

- Once a student has completed the final grade at the school, he/she must enroll in the middle or high school for which he/she is zoned. The student must then attend their zoned middle or high school or submit another application to transfer through Open Enrollment or an Out-of-Zone request.

What constitutes a student being returned to his/her home school?

- Problems with attendance, discipline, tardiness, or late pick-ups may result in the student being sent back to his or her original school.

Can students who are new to the district after the deadline passes still apply?

- Applications for out-of-zone transfers will be accepted throughout the school year for hardship reasons.

Can students maintain their Out-of-Zone transfer status if they choose to return after withdrawing from a school or the school district?

- No, the student would need to re-enroll in the school for which he/she is zoned and reapply for open enrollment during the specified timeframe.

Is transportation provided by the district for students who are approved for the Out-of-Zone request?

- Transportation will not be provided. The parent/guardian is responsible for transportation.

Are students eligible to participate in athletics if they transfer to another school?

- Yes, students may participate in athletics.