

Board Policy JBCCA: Student Assignment to Schools

Status: DRAFT

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The Henry County Board of Education (Board) establishes school attendance zones and policies pertaining to student assignment to schools with the aim of enhancing the instructional program, maximizing the use of district and school resources, and providing an efficient bus transportation system. Students are thus required to attend the school within the established attendance zone in which they reside, unless the Superintendent or designee approves a school transfer in accordance with the Board's policies, State Board of Education rules, and federal and state laws.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations for implementing school transfer options and procedures.

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Cluster Schools** - a group of elementary, middle and high schools that serve a residential community in the Henry County School District.
- B. **Designee** - means an individual who is employed by the Henry County School District that the Superintendent has designated to carry out a specific obligation or task referenced herein on behalf of the Superintendent.
- C. **Employee** - an employee of the Henry County Board of Education who is classified as a full-time, benefited employee in his/her position/job title.
- D. **Feeder School** - a school whose graduates continue their education in a designated middle or high school in the Henry County School District.
- E. **Parent** - the natural or adoptive father or mother. The term parent as used hereinafter shall be inclusive for the terms legal custodian and legal guardian.
- F. **Resident** - an individual who is a full-time occupant of a dwelling located in Henry County where the student lives with a parent, guardian or other person, unless the student is a foster child, adult student, emancipated minor or homeless.
- G. **Sibling** - the natural or adoptive brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or other school-age child residing at the same residence.
- H. **Step-parent** - the spouse living in the same residence with the student's parent.

II. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONES

- A. Students shall be assigned to specific schools according to the school attendance zones approved by the Henry County Board of Education, unless a school assignment is made according to the provisions of this policy.

School bus transportation services are provided only for eligible students who attend school within their school attendance zone.

- B. Best Interests of Students and/or Operation of the School System

To the fullest extent allowed by law, the Superintendent or their designee shall be authorized to make such placements as are, in the Superintendent's or their designee's discretion, necessary to an effective student safety plan, to improve the overall safety or learning environment of the school system, or are in the best interests of the student.

III. SCHOOL TRANSFER OPTIONS

- A. School transfer requests shall be submitted for approval of the Superintendent or designer based on the following provisions and in accordance with Henry County Board of Education Administrative Regulation, JBCCA-R:

1. Georgia Public School Choice (O.C.G.A. 20-2-2131)
2. Georgia Special Needs Scholarship (O.C.G.A. 20-2-2113)
3. Unsafe School (Victim of a Violent Criminal Offense/Persistently Dangerous School)
4. Child of a Henry County School System Employee
5. Siblings of Students Required by Henry County Schools to Attend a Specific School
6. Before-School and/or After-School Child Care (Grades K-5)
7. Course Selection
8. Parent location during the school year

B. Except as provided by law or relevant authority, a school transfer may be denied or revoked by the department managing student assignment, in consultation with appropriate school personnel, if the student does not maintain district-established attendance, behavior and/or academic standards.

IV. SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

A child who is classified as a Special Education student under the appropriate federal and state statutes and who cannot obtain required special services within the child's school attendance zone shall be assigned to a school where such services are provided in accordance with that student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

School bus transportation services for special education students are provided if so specified in a student's IEP.

V. HOMELESS SERVICES

Henry County Schools will work with students and families who are homeless to provide stability in school attendance and other services in the manner required by federal and state law.

Henry County Board of Education Policy JBC-1 and the administrative regulations thereof shall be followed regarding the enrollment and transportation of students who are homeless.

VI. FOSTER CARE SERVICES

Henry County Schools will work with youth in foster care to provide stability in school attendance and other services as required by federal and state law. Students in foster care within Henry County and those currently enrolled in a Henry County school will be provided equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as is provided for other students in the District.

VII. EXCEL ACADEMY

The Superintendent or designee shall transfer students who have a pending felony criminal charge, as defined by Georgia law, to EXCEL Academy until the pending criminal charge is resolved. If a student is subsequently adjudicated as guilty of committing a felony criminal charge, as defined by Georgia law, a disciplinary hearing will be held pursuant to the Henry County School System Code of Conduct, and the student's placement will be determined.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORIZATION

To the greatest extent permitted by law, the Superintendent or designee is authorized to enroll a child in any school within the system and may terminate any approval for school transfer without notice or hearing. The decision of the Superintendent or designee as to whether a requested school transfer will be permitted shall be final.
