

Current JC/JCA will be deleted. This policy - titled JCA - will replace it.

JCA ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS-

Attendance areas for the various schools of the city will be drawn by the superintendent and approved by the School Committee. Students will be assigned to the school within the attendance areas in which they reside. Effective May 15, 2025, all new students to Malden Public Schools will be assigned in accordance with this policy. Students currently enrolled in the Malden Public Schools when the policy goes into effect will be allowed to remain in their presently assigned schools.

The Committee recognizes that there are situations in which it is beneficial to both the student and the school system to allow a placement outside of the attendance area. A school will be deemed to have space available if the total enrollment of the school is at or below its design capacity and the classroom to which the student is assigned will not exceed twenty students in Kindergarten and twenty-five students in elementary and middle school.

When a student is assigned to a districtwide program that is housed at a particular school, the parents/caregivers may request their siblings attend that same school and the request will be honored subject to the availability of space.

The Superintendent is authorized to grant or deny written requests for individuals to attend a school outside designated attendance areas according to the following guidelines:

- If the legal residence of a child within Malden changes from one attendance area to another during the school year and the parents/caregivers wish the child to remain in his/her former school, permission will be granted but not extend beyond the current school year. Assignment to that school the following year will be subject to the availability of space in the school.
- Other requests for hardships assignments will be considered on their merits and may be approved subject to the availability of space in the school. Requests must be made to the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services in writing. Appeals of this decision are reviewed by the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision is final.
- In all cases in which a placement outside of the attendance area of residence is granted, parents will assume the responsibility for transportation to and from school regardless of the distance.
- The change appears to be in the interests of the child, of the schools, or for safety and/or administrative reasons.
- The establishment or change of school attendance boundaries/areas may be required

when an overcrowded condition or underutilization exists in an existing school, or when there is development of new residential areas, or when there is the opening of a new school.

Voluntary Transfers

Every effort will be made to accommodate parents/guardians preference within each school's educational seating capacity. Parents/guardians may request that their child be placed on a voluntary transfer list for the school by completing a "Voluntary Transfer Form" available at the Welcome Center. The timeline for that process is as follows:

1. Requests for a voluntary transfer outside of a student's school of residency can be made by contacting the Welcome Center beginning May 15 of each year.
2. Requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis in accordance with the above hardship provisions and policies for being placed away from the school in their residency's attendance boundaries. Requests will be reviewed by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
3. In advance of the 2025-2026 school year, any student currently enrolled in a different school than the one they would attend according to the new attendance boundaries is welcome to apply for a transfer after May 15, 2025. Transfer will be granted on a space available basis. Priority for transfers will be given to students transferring into the school in the attendance boundary in which they reside.