

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS

Students enrolled in Grades kindergarten through twelve, inclusive, (excepting children attending an approved private school, and excepting students attending an approved program designed for educating those with handicapping conditions, and excepting students attending an approved program designed for the education of gifted and talented) whose legal residence falls within the boundaries of the Patchogue-Medford School District are entitled to a tuition-free public education at the school designated in Subsections 1–11 of this policy. Students will attend schools within the attendance zone as approved by the Board of Education. The Board may change attendance zones on its own vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Education may assign a student to attend a specific school based upon District programmatic requirements, including, but not limited to, the need to balance class sizes.

School principals, with the prior approval of the superintendent of schools, are granted authority to make exceptions to the placement of a student at the school, within the specified attendance zone, when the parents of a student move their residence to another residence within the school district boundaries during an academic semester. Upon application by the parents and at the principal's discretion, the student faced with a change in residence may continue in attendance at the original school for the balance of the academic year in which the date of the change of residence occurs. Special consideration will be given to students who are in the last year of attendance at an elementary school or in the last year of attendance at a middle school.

To apply for an exemption, the parents of the student will submit a request in writing to the principal. Following consultation with the superintendent of schools, the principal will forward a copy of the approving response to the superintendent of schools, to the assistant superintendent for business, or designee and to the school district registrar. The approving response will make no provision for an extra cost to be incurred by the district for school bus transportation. If, however, school bus transportation may be arranged so that the student uses an existing bus stop and provided that the affected school bus will not be crowded beyond legal limits, the school principal is authorized to include school bus transportation as an approved service.

In the first school year after the Board of Education has changed attendance zones, the Superintendent may, in his or her sole discretion, allow students who are in the last year of attendance at a school to continue in attendance at the original school for the last year of attendance. Furthermore, the Superintendent may in the first such school year, in his or her sole discretion, allow students to continue in their current educational program until such time as they complete, change, or graduate from such program. The Superintendent is hereby authorized to establish a procedure for the submission of requests for students to continue in attendance at the original school or current educational program as described above.

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