Attendance Boundaries

In order to facilitate the most efficient administration, organization and operation of the various schools of the district, attendance areas are designated. Students in the Fargo Public School District ("District") are to attend the school assigned to the residence of their parents or legal guardians.

Boundaries are designated to distribute population in the schools and assist in traffic and pedestrian safety.

It is recognized that certain conditions may warrant exceptions to the policy. Exceptions may be granted by the Superintendent, or their designee, upon request of the parents or legal guardians of the student.

Attendance Boundary Petition Process
Attendance petitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the principals of the affected schools (importing and exporting schools).

Procedures for Petition Process

Elementary School

Current Petition Students – Parents of students currently attending on an approved petition may request enrollment of their child(ren) at the current school of attendance for the following school year by submitting a petition to the principal at the school requested by May 1. These current petition families will be notified no later than June 15 regarding the status of their request. Exceptions to Attendance petitions will be approved if they meet the established guidelines. An approved petition will remain in effect for one year unless rescinded by administrative action. Approved petitions will automatically be terminated by enrollment in another public or private school.

New Petition Requests – Parents of students requesting a new enrollment of their student(s) at a school outside their assigned attendance area may complete and submit a petition to the principal at the school requested by August 1. These new (or late) petition families will be notified no later than August 15 regarding the status of their request.

The following guidelines are considered in the enrollment decision:

1) Parents must reside within the Fargo School District.
2) The classroom averages for the grade level requested in the receiving school stay at or below District targets as defined in the Board of Education's Guiding Principles and the classroom averages for the grade level requested in the sending school remain at least 16.
3) After consultation with the District's Special Education Director, it has been determined that the required specially designed instruction and, if required, related services, excluding transportation, can be provided within the caseload of existing staff.

4) Parents/guardians assume responsibility for reliable transportation. If a student has special education transportation via a 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the District will no longer provide special education transportation in the case of an approved parent petition unless the IEP team has determined the student would not access a free and appropriate education in their home building.
5) The student maintains acceptable attendance as determined by administration (AP 6220 Student Attendance).
6) The decision of the building principal is final. The decision of the building principal may be appealed to the Associate Superintendent to ensure the above-defined process has been followed.

The approved petition will remain in effect for one year unless rescinded by administrative action. The approval will automatically be terminated by enrollment in another public or private school. One petition form must be completed annually for each child. If space is not available for all children in a family, parents may either withdraw the petition or split the children between the two schools.

Middle and High School

School boundaries are established with regard to student population within each school, and students are expected to enroll at the school assigned to their residential area. However, the school district recognizes that circumstances occasionally warrant an exception to this policy. Parents may request enrollment of their child(ren) at a school outside their assigned attendance area by completing the information requested below and submitting the petition to the principal at the school requested. Petitions will be processed in the order in which they are received. In order for a family to receive a decision on their request on or before March 15, a complete petition must be received by the District on or before January 31. When petitions are received by the District after January 31, the family will receive a decision after August 1. Approval of a petition is specific to the requested school. Once the building principal has approved the petition, the school will remain the student's home school until the student leaves or school boundaries are changed.

The following guidelines are considered in the enrollment decision:

1) Parents/guardians reside within the Fargo School District.
2) Average class size in the secondary core classes is below 27 as defined in the Board of Education's Guiding Principles. Petitions received and approved after January 31 may result in limited availability of elective courses for the student for the current and/or upcoming school year.
3) After consultation with the District's Special Education Director, it has been determined that the required specially designed instruction and, if required, related services, excluding transportation, can be provided within the caseload of existing staff.
4) Parents/guardians assume responsibility for reliable transportation. If a student has special education transportation via a 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the District will no longer provide special education transportation in

the case of an approved parent petition unless the IEP team has determined the student would not access a free and appropriate education in their home building.

5) Parents/guardians and the student understand the impact of the transfer through the petition on eligibility pursuant to the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA). Eligibility rules can be located on the NDHSAA website.
6) The decision of the building level principal may be appealed to the Associate Superintendent to ensure the process defined-above has been followed.

Boundary Changes
When school boundaries are changed, all existing petitions become null and void. Parents and guardians must then reapply to the desired school's principal. Petition approvals will not be automatic.

A student may complete the semester in progress at the time of the move with a petition.

Petition Forms

Adopted 3/9/76
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