St. Joseph County SOC 105

Schools of Choice (In-County)

2026-27 1st Semester Application Packet

The following schools are participating in the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program:

Burr Oak Community Schools
Dr. Kelvin Butts, Superintendent
326 E. Eagle Street, Burr Oak, MI 49030
Phone: (269) 489-2213

Centreville Public Schools
Chad Brady, Superintendent
190 Hogan Street, Centreville, MI 49032
Phone: (269) 467-5220

Colon Community Schools
Rick Hilderley, Superintendent
400 Dallas Street, Colon, MI 49040
Phone: (269) 432-3231

Constantine Public Schools
Patrick Breen, Superintendent
One Falcon Drive, Constantine, MI 49042
Phone: (269) 435-8900

Mendon Community Schools
Leasa Griffith-Mathews, Superintendent
148 Kirby Road, Mendon, MI 49072
Phone: (269) 496-8491

Nottawa Community School
Jerome Wolff, Superintendent
26438 M-86, Sturgis, MI 49091
Phone: (269) 467-7153

Sturgis Public Schools
Art Ebert, Superintendent
107 W. West Street, Sturgis, MI 49091
Phone: (269) 659-1500

Three Rivers Community Schools
Nikki Nash, Superintendent
851 Sixth Avenue, Three Rivers, MI 49093
Phone: (269) 279-1100

White Pigeon Community Schools
Shelly McBride, Superintendent
410 East Prairie, White Pigeon, MI 49099
Phone: (269) 483-7676

St. Joseph County ISD
Teresa Belote, Superintendent
62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032
Phone: (269) 467-5400

This package is available to all families who want to choose a different school for their children.

Si necesita ayuda con la traducción o completar la solicitud, comuníquese con Distrito Escolar Intermedio del Condado de St. Joseph (269) 467-5400.

The nine school districts in St. Joseph County, with the support of the ISD, offer a Schools of Choice Program that allows families a choice to attend any public school within St. Joseph County ISD.

This booklet is designed to help families learn about the program and the policies and procedures that have been developed to help ensure student success.

A family's checklist:

1. Select your choice school (where you want your child to attend).
2. **Deadline: Submit your child's completed application to your choice school during the application window available on the ISD & District websites.**
3. Receive notification of acceptance or non-acceptance from your choice school after the district has reviewed your child's application.
4. Complete necessary enrollment forms at your choice school.

No person on the basis of race, color, height, weight, marital status, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, genetic information, or any other legally protected status will be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any school district in St. Joseph County.

The Application Process

The application process for the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program has been designed to guarantee all applicants a fair and equitable opportunity for choosing a school. Families should be aware of the application timelines, length of transfers, and graduation requirements. Listed below are the guidelines regarding the application process:

1. Applications for the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program are available from participating school districts during regular school hours. See the published Public Notice on the St. Joseph County ISD website for any limitations regarding the number of applications that will be accepted by districts. The application must be returned to your choice school during the application window to be eligible and considered for first semester enrollment.
2. A student is allowed to request which district he/she would like to attend, but requests for specific building(s) and/or teacher(s) will not be allowed.
3. An "Program Application" Form must be completed for each student (including siblings) wishing to participate in the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program. There are no guarantees of any siblings receiving admission into this Schools of Choice Program.
4. The number of transfers allowed under this Schools of Choice Program is determined by the space available in each participating district and the space available at each building. Local district boards of education may exceed this limit, at their discretion.
5. The choice district may refuse to enroll a non-resident applicant if the applicant is, or has been within the preceding two years, suspended from school; if the applicant has ever been expelled from school; or if the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony.
6. Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted into the program and if their choice school is available after the district has reviewed your child's application.

7. All transfers under this Schools of Choice Program take place at the start of the school year, or as soon as possible if the school year has already started.
8. A student approved for transfer to a choice district is allowed to remain in the choice district until his/her class graduates from that school. The family does not need to re-apply every year as long as the student continually attends the choice district. If a student approved for transfer leaves their choice district for any reason, the family must re-apply for Schools of Choice if they want the student to return to that choice district.
9. A student in grades K-8 approved for transfer to Nottawa Community School through the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program does not need to re-apply for Schools of Choice when entering high school. The student's Schools of Choice approval allows them to transfer from Nottawa Community School to a high school in St. Joseph County without applying for Schools of Choice again.
10. Requests for transfer by students who are from another participating district, already attending the Choice School, will have priority over other student requests for transfer through the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program.
11. If there are more requests for admission than space available, priority will be given to siblings of previously enrolled Choice students. A lottery will be held to determine which applicants will be accepted for transfer to that school for the remaining available positions. The lottery will be conducted by the district listed as 'choice" district on the application.

Graduation, Promotion, and Curriculum

Each school district in St. Joseph County ISD has developed a curriculum that is based on the requirements of the State of Michigan. In addition, each district has its own locally approved grading system and graduation requirements. While there are some similarities of requirements among districts, parents or guardians should be aware of the following conditions of the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program:

1. Students are required to graduate with the number of credits determined by the district they are attending at the time of graduation.
2. All districts will supply, at the request of parents or guardians, a current list of graduation requirements for the high school they wish to have their child attend. To receive a copy of graduation requirements, parents or guardians should contact the high school principal of the school of choice.
3. Upon acceptance into this Schools of Choice Program, a current listing of performance requirements from that building will be supplied to applicants.

Transportation Guidelines

Transportation is a key issue in the Schools of Choice Program. It is the sole responsibility of parents or guardians to transport their children to and from the choice school. The following is a list of the transportation guidelines for this Schools of Choice Program:

1. Parents or guardians will be responsible for transporting students to and from school in the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program. Parents or guardians should also be aware that on those rare occasions when school closes early due to weather, etc., it is also their responsibility to provide transportation for the child from the school to their home.
2. Parents or guardians may have the option to drive their child to a pre-approved bus stop in the school district of choice if space is available on the bus. Once the child is transported from school to the bus stop, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to provide transportation home for the child. Parents or guardians should also be aware that on those rare occasions when school closes early due to weather, etc., it is also their responsibility to provide transportation for the child from the bus stop to their home. (Parents or guardians will assume the responsibility for the safety of the child at the bus stop.)
3. Students who are eligible to ride a school bus are required to follow the rules, regulations, and bus discipline policy of the choice district.
4. Schools of Choice participants will be expected to arrive at the choice school on time every day.

Athletic Policy

The focus of this Schools of Choice Program is based on academics, not athletics. Therefore, students and parents or guardians should be aware of the following conditions for transferring:

1. Students will follow the choice district's policies for participation in the school's athletic activities.
2. A student athlete participating in the St. Joseph County Schools of Choice Program is eligible to participate in an inter-scholastic athletic contest according to the rules and regulations as defined and governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).
3. The action to include schools of choice within the St. Joseph County ISD does not affect the athletic eligibility of transferring students. Students who transfer by choice from one school district to another and do not otherwise satisfy the MHSAA transfer regulation are ineligible for interscholastic athletics for one full semester.

Return completed form to your Choice School Superintendent's Office by the deadline(s) listed in the Public Notice (available on the ISD & District websites)	**105 Schools of Choice (In County) Application School year: 2026 - 2027**	If you have questions, please contact your Choice School Superintendent's Office (see first page for contact info)

District of Choice: (Where the student would like to go)	
Student Name:	Birthdate:
Address, City, State, Zip:	
School District in which you live:	Grade:
Where did the student last attend school?	
Has the student been suspended from another school within the last 2 school years?	Yes or No (Circle one)
Has the student ever been expelled from another school?	Yes or No (Circle one)
Has the student ever been convicted of a felony?	Yes or No (Circle one)
Parent or Guardian Name:	
Parent/Guardian Address, City, State, Zip:	
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
Parent or Guardian Email:	
Name and grade of student's siblings who are already attending Choice School District:	

By signing below, I acknowledge that I understand the rules, regulations, grading system, and graduation requirements of my Choice School District; I agree to abide by the School of Choice District's requirements; and I agree to provide proof of birthdate and immunization records to the School of Choice at the time of registration. Any misleading or incorrect information provided on this form will void the application.

Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:
Student (if over 18) Signature:	Date:

Record Release Form

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA), I hereby permit_____ (current School) to release the records or copy of records of:_____(student) to_____(choice school).

Parent/Guardian Signature:X_____Date:_____

As the student's records are necessary in program planning, we are requesting that you include any special help information (psychological, placement in a remedial or accelerated programs, etc.) We thank you in advance for your prompt reply.

For Choice School Use Only ☐ **…✓.. If an address changed from resident to non-resident.**

_____Applicant Accepted for Enrollment – Contracted family (attach "Notification of Acceptance" Letter).
_____Applicant Not Accepted for Enrollment – Contacted family (attach "Notification of Non-Acceptance" Letter).

Choice School's Representative Signature:	Date: