St. Joseph County Section 105c

Schools of Choice (Contiguous counties)

2026-27 1st Semester Application Packet

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, are offering a Section 105c Schools of Choice Program for 2026-27. This Program allows students of families who reside in Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, or Van Buren Intermediate School District a choice to attend Burr Oak, Centreville, Colon, Constantine, Mendon, Nottawa, Sturgis, Three Rivers or White Pigeon school district.

1. This booklet is designed to help families learn about the program and policies and procedures that have been developed to help ensure student access.
2. This Schools of Choice Program is based on Section 388.1705c of the Michigan School Aid Act 20.

To apply for Section 105c Schools of Choice

1. Select your choice school (where you want your child to attend).

2. **Deadline: Submit your child's completed application to your choice school by noon on the application deadline date for your 'choice' school district.**

3. Be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance from your choice school district within 15 days of the application deadline.

4. Complete necessary enrollment forms at your choice school district.

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 in St. Joseph County.

The Application Process

The application process for the Section 105c 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 as described below:

1. Applications for the Section 105c Schools of Choice Program will be available at participating school districts during regular school hours. See the published Public Notice for any limitations regarding the number of applications that will b e accepted by the districts. **The application must be returned to the choice school by the application deadline specified on the 105c Schools of Choice public notice.** If a choice school receives an application after the deadline, the application will not be accepted. The family will need to apply for the Schools of Choice Program the next time it is open. If an application is late due to an administrative error, the school will notify the ISD and the resident district and will process the application as if it had been received by the deadline.

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 application must be completed for each student (including siblings) wishing to participate in the Section 105c 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 in each building. Local district boards of education may exceed this limit, at their discretion.

5. If the choice district receives more applications for the applicant's grade level than the choice district has space available, a "Random Draw System" will be held as required in Section 399.1705c of the State School Aid Act.

6. 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.

7. As required by Section 388.1705c of the School State Aid Act, “In order for a district or intermediate district to enroll pursuant to this section a nonresident pupil who resides in a district located in a contiguous intermediate district and who is eligible for special education programs and services according to statute or rule, or who is a child with disabilities, as defined under the individuals with disabilities education act, Public Law 108-446, the enrolling district shall have a written agreement with the resident district of the pupil for the purpose of providing the pupil with a free appropriate public education. The written agreement shall include, but is not limited to, an agreement on the responsibility for the payment of the added costs of special education programs and services for the pupil. The written agreement shall address how the agreement shall be amended in the event of significant changes in the costs or level of special education programs or services required by the pupil.” In addition, Section 51 of the Michigan Department of Education Pupil Accounting Manual states, “If a nonresident pupil was enrolled under Section 105c, Schools of Choice, and the pupil subsequently is determined eligible for special education services, the district
must enter into a written cooperative agreement with the pupil’s resident district as to the payment of added costs for programs and services. If it is determined that a pupil is eligible special education services prior to the pupil being enrolled under Section 105c by the district for the first time, and the district and resident district fail to reach a written agreement regarding the coverage for added costs
of special education programs and services for the pupil, the pupil shall not be enrolled.”

8. Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted within 15 days of the application deadline listed on the 105c Schools of Choice public notice.

9. All transfers under this Schools of Choice Program take place by the dates listed in #8.

10. 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 Section 105c Schools of Choice if they want the student to return to that choice district.

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 and guardians should be aware of the following conditions of the Section 105c 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 the 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 Section 105c 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 rom 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. Section 105c 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:

Students will follow the choice district's policies for participation in the school's athletic activities.

A student athlete participating in the Section 105c Schools of Choice Program is eligible to participate in an **interscholastic** athletic contest according to the rules and regulations as defined and governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

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 regulations 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)	**105c Schools of Choice (Contiguous Counties) 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 copy of "Notification of Acceptance" Letter).
_____Applicant Not Accepted for Enrollment – Contacted family (attach "Notification of Non-Acceptance" Letter).

Choice School's Representative Signature:	Date: