EASTCONN
Where Learning Comes to Life

STUDENTS
Series 5000
Policy #5037.1.1

School Attendance Areas Inter-District Choice

The EASTCONN Board of Directors recognizes that students may benefit from having a choice of schools to attend within the public school system that is not limited by school and/or EASTCONN boundaries. An inter District public school attendance program will (1) provide parents and students with greater opportunities to choose the school and/or program that best meets the academic needs of the student; (2) positively influence the level of parent involvement and student motivation; (3) improve academic achievement; (4) encourage racial, ethnic and economic balance; and (5) provide a choice of educational programs for students.

EASTCONN will cooperate with the appropriate regional educational service center in the planning and implementation of an inter-District public school attendance program in accordance with the timelines and provisions contained within applicable Connecticut General Statutes as may be periodically amended and pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Nonresident students from Hartford who apply pursuant to the regulations approved by the Board of Directors, may enroll in particular programs or schools in EASTCONN and in the surrounding areas on a space available basis, without payment of tuition except that EASTCONN shall receive an amount, within available appropriations, from the Department of Education, for each out-of-EASTCONN student attending a school within EASTCONN. It is recognized that the EASTCONN shall determine which school Districts in its area are located close enough to a priority school Agency to make transportation feasible. (note CGS 10-266aa(c) restricts mandatory participation in the Open Choice Program to Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and New London.)

When there are more students seeking to attend school in EASTCONN than there are spaces available, EASTCONN shall assist the District in determining attendance by use of a lottery or lotteries designed to preserve or increase racial, ethnic or economic diversity. Preference shall be given to siblings and to students who would otherwise attend a school identified as in need of improvement pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act.

In providing for admission of nonresident students, the school Agency shall consider:

1. Issues pertaining to the availability of space within a requested school to accommodate the enrollment request. The District will notify EASTCONN by March 31 of each year of the space it will have available for students from the surrounding area for the new school year.

2. Programs available and the possible establishment of new programs.

3. Eligibility criteria for participating in a particular program, including age requirements, course prerequisites and required levels of performance.

4. Dates of enrollment of nonresident students in a school or program.

5. The requirement that participants attending school in EASTCONN shall do so until they graduate from high school.

It is the policy of EASTCONN to receive nonresident students as part of the state-wide inter District public school attendance program in accordance with plan developed with the Regional Educational Service Center. Such planning, the Board of Directors believes, should consider, but not be limited to, the issues of definition and determination of space availability, choice of students, transportation to and from school and for after-school activities. Further, planning should consider issues related to special education, prior disciplinary behavior, and acceptance of prior academic work. EASTCONN will not recruit students under this program for athletic or extracurricular purposes. Records of students involved in the inter District program will be promptly forwarded to EASTCONN.

The EASTCONN Board of Directors directs the Executive Director and staff not to make any distinction on account of race, sex, ethnic group, religion or disability of any student who is in attendance or who seeks admission to any school within EASTCONN in the determination or recommendation of action under this policy.

Adopted: February 26, 2019
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