

Attendance Zone Transition Plan: Priority Levels for Grandfathering Affected Students

School Board approved 4/6/20

What is Grandfathering?

"Grandfathering" is a process by which a student (who meets specific criteria) may be exempt from attending his/her *new* Attendance Zone School that results from a planned attendance zone change. As Coeur d'Alene Public Schools prepares to adjust some of the school attendance zones, as approved by the Board of Trustees for the 2020-21 school year, District officials recognize there are some circumstances under which students may want to remain at the school where they are currently enrolled. Certain students will be eligible to be grandfathered, or exempted from the attendance zone changes, according to the priorities established by the District and described in this plan.

How long does the Grandfathering period apply?

The grandfathering options in this plan are available to students who will be enrolled in the District for the 2020-21 school year. After the 2020-21 school year, requests to attend a school outside of the student's Attendance Zone will be subject to the District's Open Enrollment policy and procedure.

Do I have to apply annually?

Idaho Code 33-1402 requires annual application to a school outside of the student's home district/zone. Although not guaranteed and subject to the space and priority considerations outlined in policy/procedure, the District will endeavor to honor a high school student's desire to complete all grade levels at that student's school of choice, given the eligibility and related concerns for such high school students. The District does not guarantee re-enrollment at any grade level.

What is Open Enrollment?

Parents or guardians may apply to open enroll their student at the school they believe will be in the student's best interest, even when the school is outside their attendance zone. This Open Enrollment process can be found in Board Policy 3010 and Procedure 3010P. The grandfathering options in this plan do not address Open Enrollment assignments.

Can disability-related conditions be used as a basis for preferential treatment?

Many parents have requested priority treatment in grandfathering decisions based on their child's special needs. Requests for grandfathering opportunities are subject to Open Enrollment laws. The ability for a parent to apply for Open Enrollment starts with Idaho Code 33-1402, which incorporates by reference Idaho Code 33-1404. These statutes require that the Board establish Open Enrollment standards for accepting and rejecting Open Enrollment applications. However, the statute prohibits the District from using the following standards: "Standards may not include previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, disabling conditions, or proficiency in the

English language.” The District, in compliance with Idaho Code, cannot use disability-related conditions as a standard in its open enrollment decisions.

However, in individual situations where it is determined that a student’s 504 plan or IEP includes consideration for attendance at a particular school, the District will review the same pursuant to governing state and federal laws and District policies.

Middle School Attendance Zones and Transfer Requests?

Implementation of new Attendance Zones for middle schools will not take place in the 2020-21 school year. All students in grades 6-8 will attend school in their existing zones. All middle school transfer requests will be considered under the District’s Open Enrollment policy.

Priority Levels (For Grandfathering)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fall 2020 Transition Plan

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These grandfathering considerations will be in effect for the 2020-21 school year only. Thereafter, such students will be subject to Open Enrollment Policy and Procedure, and given the priority preferences outlined therein.

Priority Level 1

- All students currently enrolled at a Magnet School will be approved to continue enrollment at that Magnet School.
- All students currently enrolled at Northwest Expedition Academy (NExA) who do not reside in the new Attendance Zone for NExA for the 2020-21 school year will be approved to continue enrollment at NExA.
- Students of School District staff members will be approved to continue at their current enrolled school.

Depending on the availability of classroom space, additional students will be considered for grandfathering according to the following priority levels.

Priority Level 2

- Students previously required to transfer out of their Attendance Zone due to lack of space.
- Incoming 5th grade students impacted by the zone changes, and their currently enrolled siblings (kindergarten through grade 4) for the 2020-21 school year only.

Priority Level 3

- Incoming kindergarten students who would lose access to full-day, tuition-free kindergarten as a result of being placed in a new Attendance Zone.

Priority Levels (For Grandfathering)

HIGH SCHOOL

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These grandfathering considerations will be in effect for the 2020-21 school year only. Thereafter, such students will be subject to Open Enrollment Policy and Procedure, and given the priority preferences outlined therein.

For incoming 10th, 11th and 12th grade students:

- All incoming 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students will have the option to remain at the school previously attended.

For incoming 9th grade students:

- If space is available, incoming 9th graders who have an older sibling currently attending high school in their former Attendance Zone will be given priority over other open enrollment applications.
- All other incoming 9th grade students will enroll in their new Attendance Zone.

All other high school transfer requests will be considered and prioritized pursuant to Open Enrollment Policy and Procedures.