

[Policy Home](#)

[Section J Index](#)

### **School of Choice**

#### **1. ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS**

The assignment of pupils eligible to register in schools within Pine Creek S.D. shall be at the discretion of the Board which shall identify for each school the appropriate catchment area and shall designate pupils within those areas to their respective schools. Variations to these assignments shall be permitted only in accordance with the provisions of this statement of administrative procedures and Board policy.

#### **2. DEFINITIONS**

Choice - is defined as the ability of a pupil to select, for attendance purposes, a school other than the closest catchment area school with space and suitable program, as that pupil's home school.

Home School Division -is the Division in which a pupil's parents or legal guardian(s) reside, or if the pupil is of the age of majority, the Division in which the pupil occupies a permanent residence.

Eligible Pupil - an eligible pupil is a pupil who qualifies under the regulations of Manitoba Education and Training for provincial support while in attendance at a public school. (Pupils sponsored by any educational authority which receives primary funding from any body other than the Government of Manitoba are not considered to be eligible to exercise the provisions of these school of choice procedures as the provisions for transfer of funds are not available to them.)

Resident Pupil - a pupil who qualifies under Section 1 of the Public Schools Act of Manitoba as a resident of Pine Creek S.D.

Non-Resident Pupil - a pupil who is eligible to attend a public school in the Province of Manitoba but who does not meet the requirements of Section 1 of the Public Schools Act of Manitoba as a resident of Pine Creek S.D.

#### **3. MAKING APPLICATION TO A SCHOOL OF CHOICE**

All applications for a change of school must be made on the form authorized by Manitoba Education and Training and must be submitted directly to the school of choice no later than May 15th of the spring term for school assignment effective with the commencement of the next following fall term. **A school shall have no obligation to consider late applications.**

When a school agrees to accept a non-resident pupil who has made late application to a school of choice, it shall do so only when the home division has agreed to send the transfer fee for the pupil, or the parents or legal guardians have agreed to pay an equivalent fee to the Pine Creek S.D. Any school receiving an application for school of choice must advise the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), receiving/home School Division office and sending school no later than June 30th whether or not the pupil has been accepted.

3.1 Pupils wishing to exercise school choice will:

- a) be required to submit a request for admission to the school of choice on or before May 15th for the ensuing school year. This request must be submitted on the Manitoba Education and Training approved form of application.
- b) be considered in the following order of priority:
  - i. **first priority:** resident, catchment area pupils;
  - ii. **second priority:** pupils previously approved to attend the school in accordance with these procedures;
  - iii. **third priority:** resident pupils residing outside the catchment area of the school wishing to attend the school as a school of choice; and
  - iv. **fourth priority:** non-resident pupils wishing to attend the school as a school of choice.
- c) be considered for admission only if:
  - i. space is available in the program of choice and/or the classroom(s) under consideration (see section 5.3);
  - ii. the school has available all special equipment or physical accommodations required by the pupil;
  - iii. the program of choice is suited to the age, ability and aptitude of the pupil, and the pupil has all necessary prerequisites for the program and/or grade level of choice;
  - iv. the principal of the school is satisfied that enrolling the pupil will not be detrimental to the continuity of the pupil's education;
  - v. the principal of the school is satisfied that enrolling the pupil will not be detrimental to order, discipline and the well-being of other pupils in the school; and
  - vi. the school is not required to establish a new program or classroom to meet the educational needs of the pupil.

3.2 For the purpose of defining space availability the principal shall consider the following circumstances:

- a) projected enrolment in the identified program or grade level
- b) the special circumstances of the pupils already approved to the classroom or program. These may include but are not limited to the number and circumstances of special needs pupils, identified behavioral difficulties and anticipated range in academic abilities; and

3.3 Notwithstanding the above, and to protect potential needs for pupils moving into the catchment area prior to the commencement of classes, the Pine Creek S.D. reserves the right to refuse admission of out-of-school-catchment-area pupils to a classroom or program under which the provisions of schools of choice when:

- a) Enrolment projections are
  - i. K-4 grade level, 23-25 pupils or more;
  - ii. 5-8 grade level, 25-27 pupils or more;
  - iii. Sr1-Sr4 level, 27-29 pupils or more;
  - iv. Vocational, industrial arts or home economics classroom level, 14 pupils or more.

- b) A non-resident pupil seeking school of choice is deemed to have disciplinary or behavioral problems which were previously addressed through additional support in the home school division and the home division chooses not to pay for such additional support in Pine Creek S.D.
- c) The pupil was expelled from attendance in the home or previous school division/district.
- d) The request for choice of school involves placement in a special education or specially designed student at risk program. The principal and Coordinator of Student Services shall consult for the purposes of determining the needs of the pupils already approved to the class and shall be satisfied that the inclusion of another pupil will not be detrimental to those pupils. If the inclusion of an additional pupil is believed to be detrimental the application shall be refused. The provisions of Section 5.3(1) shall not be applicable to such classes.

#### 4. APPEAL OF SCHOOL OF CHOICE DECISIONS

Pine Creek S.D. recognizes that within the guidelines provided by these Administrative Procedures, the principal of the school has the responsibility to make decisions with respect to school of choice requests. Notwithstanding the principal's responsibility, refusal by a principal to admit a pupil to a school of choice may be appealed by parent/guardian in writing to the Superintendent of Schools and/or to the Board of Trustees. Final authority in the decision to admit pupils to a school shall rest with the Board of Trustees.

#### 5. WITHDRAWAL FROM A SCHOOL OF CHOICE

A pupil who has been approved to attend a school of choice in the Division may withdraw from that school. However, under such circumstances the Division is not obligated to accept return to the previous school and reserves the right to designate the school to which the pupil shall be assigned. Such assignment shall be subject to all provisions identified in this administrative procedural document.

#### 6. CONTINUANCE IN A SCHOOL OF CHOICE

Once a pupil has been accepted in a school of choice he or she shall be entitled to continue at that school, year after year, as if an approved pupil of that school.

#### 7. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

**Student transportation eligibility will be governed by Policy EEA-R – Pupil Transportation Regulation.**