

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE: PARENT INFORMATION

School of Choice legislation was introduced to public education in 1997. Under this legislation, students may choose to attend a school other than the one designated by the School Board. The school of choice may be within the division or out-of-division.

There is a priority of admission under Schools of Choice. Students are enrolled in the following priority:

- first, students who reside in the school's catchment area;
- second, students residing in the school division who already have siblings attending that school of choice (space availability supersedes whether a sibling is already enrolled);
- third, students residing in the school division;
- fourth, students from outside of the school division who already have siblings in that school of choice; and
- fifth, other Manitoba students.

A school is required to accept a student who wishes to exercise choice unless:

- space is not available,
- special equipment or physical facilities required by the student are not available,
- the program is not suited to the age, ability, or aptitude of the student,
- enrolling the student would be detrimental to order, discipline and well-being of the students in the school, or
- proper notification is not provided by the parent or student.

Once a student has exercised choice and is accepted into a particular school, the student is entitled to attend to the highest-grade level in that school. After completion of the highest grade in a school, a new School of Choice form is required when the student advances to another school; for example, when moving from grade 6 to grade 7 or from grade 9 to grade 10 in a different school. If a student moves out of the catchment during the school year, the student may finish the year at the same school, unless the school is overcrowded. If the student wishes to continue at the same school after June, a Schools of Choice application must be made in time to be considered for the subsequent school year.

Should you wish to register your child under Schools of Choice legislation, application is made directly at your school of choice.

Please note that a School of Choice form is required if the family changes residence or transfers from one program to another at any time during the school year. Schools will begin to accept forms on the first day after the winter break for the following fall term. Applications may be mailed or delivered in person.

If there are any further questions regarding the process, please call the Human Resources Department at the Administrative Office at 204.488.1757