

OPEN ENROLLMENT IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Elementary school students are entitled to attend the school in the attendance area in which they live. However, the School Committee will allow Northampton families with children entering grades K – 5, to choose among the elementary schools based on available space as determined by the Superintendent, under the following guidelines:

1. During the week of Kindergarten Registration (mid March) resident families with elementary students entering grades K – 5 will be given the opportunity to request that their child(ren) be allowed to attend an elementary school outside the attendance area in which they live by requesting an Open Enrollment application.
2. Applications must be received in the office of the Registrar by the application deadline.
3. Students will be assigned to schools on the basis of the following priorities:
 - Siblings in the school requested. Once a student is enrolled in an elementary school, siblings in the family will be given preference for space in that school.
 - Minority access – minority students will be given preference in schools in which their enrollment will improve racial balance, based on Chapter 71, § 37C and 37D.
 - Lottery – should there be more applicants for the remaining seats in a grade in a particular school than seats available, a lottery will be held.
4. Any student who is accepted at an elementary school under the provisions of this policy is entitled to remain in that school through the completion of fifth grade.
5. Non-resident students accepted into the Northampton Public Schools through School Choice, but not at the preferred school, may apply the following school year through the Open Enrollment Policy.
6. Generally, Open Enrollment occurs in March but may continue until November 1st for special circumstances approved by the Superintendent, if space is available and if enrollment in an elementary school outside the attendance area will benefit class size or make up of the class.

Additionally, students who begin school at the school within their attendance area, and move to another residence within Northampton while still attending that elementary school, may then apply for Open Enrollment at that school. If the Principal determines that space is available, the student may remain in that school through the completion of the fifth grade.

7. Parents of children accepted through Open Enrollment will be responsible for the transportation of their children. The Northampton Public Schools will not provide transportation to students who are attending an elementary school outside their attendance area.

8. The School Committee affirms its position that it shall not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance or proficiency in the English language.

Adoption date: February 9, 2006