

Assignment of Students to School and Programs

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The Board of Education directs that the assignment of students to schools and programs be consistent with the best interests of students and the best use of the resources of the District. The Board also recognizes that diversity in the school environment has been shown to have a positive impact on student achievement. Such diversity may be on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex and/or gender, religion or religious practice, disability, socioeconomic status, language, academic achievement and/or academic potential.

Assignment of students to schools and programs may be based on current District population patterns, enrollment projections, building capacity, educational programs, students' educational needs, transportation requirements, demographic factors, as set forth above, and the presence of diversity where possible.

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide appropriate and equitable educational opportunities to every child in the District in accordance with his/her needs and the diversity within the District. It is the goal of the Board of Education to achieve racial, ethnic and socio-economic balance in each school and program within the Newburgh Enlarged City School District reflective of the racial, ethnic and socio-economic make-up of the school community without necessarily attempting to be proportionate of it. It is the further goal to continually monitor and eliminate racial isolation and discrimination wherever it may occur in accordance with the federal consent decree dated October 22, 1979 and the Decision of the Commissioner of Education No. 9149 dated December 3, 1975.

The following means and methods may be utilized to achieve these goals:

1. Attendance Zones
2. Magnet Schools or Theme Schools
3. Parent Preference/Managed Choice Program
4. Lottery Process
4. House and Academy Programs at the secondary schools
5. Strategically locating schools
6. Strategically locating programs.

Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate a parent's/student's first or second choice of school of attendance within the strictures of space availability and the student's special needs that can only be accommodated in a particular school (e.g., English language learners, special education).

Recognizing the negative impact that changing schools has on children, to the extent practicable, a student will be permitted to stay in the school they attend unless the parent/guardian initiates a request for a transfer or extenuating circumstances necessitate a change in school (e.g., for safety reasons).

The responsibility and authority for the proper grade, class and school placement of all students is the professional obligation and duty of the school staff and the central office staff under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools. Final decisions regarding assignment of students to schools and programs rests with the District.

The Board will periodically review the status of enrollment in the District's schools to ensure that the goals of this policy are being met.