

SCHOOL CHOICE

5004.1

The School Board of Broward County Public Schools is committed to providing quality educational opportunities for all students regardless of background characteristics by providing each student an educational environment that enhances the individual's educational success. The School Board is also committed to encouraging all parents to play an active role in their children's education and to increasing the educational options available to parents and students in the public schools. Finally, the School Board is committed to providing settings for education that promote understanding of diversity, tolerance and fair play, so that the positive tenets of a democratic society are reinforced by what students experience in schools. In Broward County Public Schools, diversity is a broad concept that includes gender, race, gender identity, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, linguistic differences, exceptional abilities, variations of talents and abilities, and special needs. Throughout this Policy, wherever the word "parent(s)" appears, it shall also refer to "guardian(s)."

The School Board supports School Choice (Magnet Schools, NOVA, Opportunity Scholarship Program, reassignments, College Academy at Broward College, and Broward Virtual Schools) as one tool for achieving these goals. First, the School Board believes that School Choice should provide educational programs that promote educational excellence for all students. School Choice will offer students with different interests, talents and aptitudes, distinct choices that may enhance their educational success. Second, the School Board believes that School Choice should be used to develop innovative instructional practices and promote systemic reform. Third, School Choice is one tool for the promotion of diversity within schools, including, but not limited to, the prevention, reduction, or elimination of minority group isolation. In addition, School Choice supports the District's goal to stabilize enrollment at selected schools. School Choice is developed, established and maintained, dependent on the needs of the District as a whole, in meeting identified school district enrollment and diversity goals.

I. DEFINITIONS

Active Military Duty Personnel: Currently serving in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard).

Applicant: The parent(s)/legal guardian of a natural, adopted, or foster, son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter living in the same household, who is currently applying to a requested school/program for the next school year.

Boundaried School: Except as otherwise allowed and approved by the appropriate process provided for in this Policy, all students residing within a particular attendance zone shall attend the assigned school for the zone of residence.

Broward Virtual School

BVS serves as a virtual instruction program for K-12 students. BVS is a school of choice that provides parents an educational option that uses an interactive learning environment accessible through technology and the Internet in which students are separated from their teachers by time and/or space. Pursuant to Section 1102.45, F.S., BVS shall contract

with state approved providers for content and for related services.

Computerized Random Selection Process: A student selection process through which applications that meet the deadline are placed in a computerized random pool of names from which applicants for each school are selected and assigned based on identified seats available. The following selection priorities will be considered prior to the computerized random selection process for all timely applications (each item is independent of each other and are not considered in sequential order): 1) Magnet students who will be continuing in theme; 2) 25% of all available Magnet/Nova seats will be given to students who are currently attending schools over 110% of the school's Permanent FISH Capacity; 3) students who have a parent/legal guardian on active military duty; **4) Magnet and Nova students who have a sibling currently attending and will continue to attend the requested school in the next school year;** 5) full-time school board employees who are employed at the requested school; and 6) reassignment applicants who request a school for a curricular program not offered at the boundary school, provided seats are available (25% of reassigned seats will be set aside for curricula program requests); and/or 7) supervision for students age 12 years or younger per state law.

Curricular Program for Reassignment Request: A curricular program priority will include curriculum that is not offered at the boundary school or at a Magnet school. The curriculum must not be offered in part or whole at the student's home boundary school. A student may apply for a reassignment to an Innovative Program school that offers a unique thematic program. There must be seats available at the school and within the program to be awarded a curricular program reassignment.

Feeder Patterns: A feeder pattern is the progression and school assignment of a student or a group of students from one level of school to another (elementary to middle, middle to high). A clean feeder pattern is when all the students in one elementary school matriculate to the same middle school and/or all students in one middle school matriculate to the same high school. A clean feeder pattern is not guaranteed and is dependent on the space available at the next level school when planning for boundary assignments.

FISH: FISH is an acronym for Florida Inventory of School Houses. FISH capacity represents the Department of Education's measure of occupancy for permanent and relocatable buildings, hence gross FISH capacity.

Full-Time Employee: Full-time, permanent employees of the School Board of Broward County, who have school-age children, including those of which they have legal guardianship, shall be eligible to attend the same school at the employee's work location. If applying for a reassignment the employee may request another school within a five-mile radius of the work location as provided in the Broward Teacher's Union Contract, Article 19. In a specialized program such as Magnet, the student must meet the academic criteria at the secondary level.

Innovative Programs: Schools that provide unique or thematic instruction. Marketing will target students living within the home school boundary. Stabilization of enrollment will be from existing boundaries. Innovative Programs support unique or thematic instruction within matriculating feeder patterns. There is no District application process

for students to apply for an Innovative Programs. Magnet schools/programs that no longer meet the policy criteria to stabilize enrollment will transition to an Innovative Program, while continuing the implementation of thematic instruction for in-boundary students.

Magnet Schools/Programs: Magnet schools/programs provide an opportunity for under-enrolled schools to stabilize/increase student enrollment. Magnet schools/programs offer specialized curriculums with an emphasis on instruction that includes a rigorously-defined sequential course of study. Magnet schools/programs provide transportation within transportation zones for those students living more than two miles from the Magnet school. Students will be assigned to the Magnet school/program based upon the home address and transportation zone identified. Magnet schools/programs can be total-school or program-within-a-school. Students must meet criteria for applicable program and apply within a designated time frame to be considered for placement.

Nova Schools: The Nova Schools are the District's only Kindergarten through 12th grade school choice option that provides students with a seamless educational experience on the same contiguous campus. Student learning at the four schools is supported through personalized learning communities that include teaming and looping, as students receive high-quality instruction from highly qualified teachers. As students matriculate through the schools, their rigorous continuum of student learning includes nationally recognized curricular innovation through the use of technology in the elementary grades; multiple high school credit courses offered at the middle school level; and numerous honors and advanced placement courses as well as technical education certification programs at the high school. With no entrance criteria, the Nova Schools focus on preparing students for both college and the careers of the 21st century. Students must apply within a designated time frame to be considered for placement.

Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP): Florida law at s.1002.38 Florida Statutes, provides that a school that received performance grade points equal to an "F" or three consecutive "Ds," must provide choice to each assigned student at the school. The State has required that a school's eligibility be calculated based on the FCAT statewide assessments (1008.22 F.S.).

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian: Refers to either or both parents, any legal guardian of a student, any person in a legal parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising legal supervisory authority over a student in place of a parent (F.S. 1000.21(5)).

Permanent FISH Capacity: The Department of Education's measure of occupancy for permanent buildings (does not include relocatables).

Reassignments: A student may apply for placement to attend a different school other than the boundaried school for the following school year, based on Permanent FISH Capacity at the requested school. Students must apply between the first school day in December and a designated date in February to be considered for placement. The reason for requesting a reassignment must be identified on the application. There is no guarantee that an application request will be granted. There is no automatic approval for a student/sibling to matriculate to the next school through the reassignment process, including a prior placement in a Pre-K program at a requested school. In addition,

sibling(s) of a Pre-K student are not guaranteed a reassignment seat at the same school.

In April, following the registration deadline for all choice options, a random lottery will be conducted for reassignment seats that become available due to parents not registering their student at the awarded school. Only applicants who applied during the first day of school in December to a designated date in February reassignment application window who were not awarded a reassignment seat will be eligible to participate in the random selection lottery. All other reassignment applications will be considered late.

Late reassignments may be granted on a first come first serve basis beginning in May to schools that may have reassignment seats available following the December through designated date in February reassignment window facilitated by the Demographics & Student Assignments Department.

School Boundaries: The geographic area that identifies public school assignments as annually approved by the School Board.

Sibling: A natural, adopted, or foster brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother, or stepsister living in the same household as a student who is currently attending a requested school and will continue to attend the requested school during the next school year.

Socioeconomic Status: May be determined by indicators including, but not limited to, participation in free/reduced lunch program.

Statement of Provisional Domicile Form: Broward County Public Schools' required form on which a parent/legal guardian must document primary place of residence to allow for immediate, temporary enrollment and provide the parent(s)/legal guardian up to 30 calendar days to produce the official required documentation.

The College Academy at Broward College (CA@BC): The College Academy at Broward College is a joint venture between Broward County Public Schools (SBBC) and Broward College (BC). Students attending CA@BC are degree seeking, full time dual enrollment students. Students attending CA@BC complete their last two years of high school, simultaneously earning a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree from BC. The College Academy is located on the Broward College campus.

Timeline Waiver for Charter School Closure:

In the event that a charter school closes after the first day of school, the reassignment/choice timeline as described in this policy will be waived for not more than 90 days, after the actual charter school closure, for the students displaced by the untimely closure of a charter school. Students attending the charter school at the time of the actual closure will have an opportunity to apply for a reassignment or magnet school based on seats available at the time of closure and as per any priority/criteria stated in this policy.

II. PROGRAMS

1. INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

Seats available at an Innovative Program school will be determined based on projected

enrollment, as compared with Permanent FISH Capacity at each school on an annual basis. If the District determines that there are seats available for students from beyond the designated boundaries at an Innovative Program school, the parent(s)/legal guardian may apply through the defined reassignment process.

A. Eligibility - All students attending a school where a School Board approved Innovative Program has been established, may have the opportunity to participate in the program.

B. District Application Process - Not required for students within the boundary attendance zone. Students from beyond the boundary attendance zone are required to apply through the reassignment process and assignment is based on available seats.

C. Assignment Priority - There is no assignment priority since there is not an application process.

D. Transportation - Transportation is not provided for students that live outside the designated school boundary. (Refer to reassignment transportation in 6.D. of this Policy.)

E. Appeals/Hardships - There is no appeal or hardship for an Innovative Program because student is attending the boundary school.

F. Withdrawals - Students attending an Innovative Program school with an approved reassignment, will follow the reassignment rescission process as identified in 6.F. of this Policy.

G. Monitoring and Reporting - After the benchmark day enrollment count each school year, the first Monday after Labor Day, the Demographics & Student Assignment Department will report the impact of the student enrollment.

2. MAGNET SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS

A. Eligibility - The parent(s)/legal guardian must secure a student identification number for their child(ren) from the assigned boundary school if not currently registered with Broward County Public Schools to be considered for a Magnet school/program. There is no eligibility criteria at the elementary level or at the "Growing STEM" middle school Magnet programs. Students that apply to a Magnet middle or high school (secondary) must meet eligibility criteria at the time of application. At the secondary level, the only eligibility criteria shall be as follows:

1. For the *International Baccalaureate Program*, applicants must have achieved proficiency on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT 2.0) reading and mathematics (or Algebra End-of-Course test) scores at or above level 4 and have a minimum 3.0 GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. Students who do not have FCAT 2.0 scores, applicants must have a nationally recognized norm-referenced standardized examination with scores of 90th percentile or above in total reading and total mathematics and have

a minimum 3.0 GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics.

2. For the *Science/Pre-Engineering Program* and *The Latin School*, applicants must have achieved proficiency on the FCAT 2.0 reading and mathematics (or Algebra End-of-Course test) scores for reading and mathematics at or above level 3 and have a minimum 3.0 GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. Students who do not have FCAT 2.0 scores, applicants must have a nationally recognized standardized norm-referenced examination with scores of 75th percentile or above in total reading and total mathematics and have a minimum 3.0 GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics.

3. For *identified secondary Magnet programs*, applicants must have achieved proficiency on the FCAT 2.0 reading and mathematics (or Algebra End-of-Course test) scores for reading and mathematics at or above level 3 and have a minimum 2.0 GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. Students who do not have FCAT 2.0 scores, applicants must have a nationally recognized norm-referenced standardized examination with scores at the 50th percentile or above in total reading and total mathematics and have a minimum 2.0 GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics.

4. For the secondary schools' Performing & Visual Arts program, auditions shall also be required (in addition to the criteria in 2.A.3. above). Auditions shall be judged by a qualified, diverse panel of professionals selected by the school's administration.

5. The School Board is committed to a definition of diversity that includes students with special needs, Exceptional Student Education (ESE), and students who are English Language Learners (ELL). These students shall be given equal opportunity to attend Magnet schools/programs in light of each student's need for special services. In the case of a student whose special needs require the development of an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or a Gifted Education Plan (EP), attendance at a Magnet school/program must be consistent with the official IEP or EP.

6. The following eligibility criteria and procedures will be used for acceptance of English Language Learner (ELL) students and Exceptional Education Students (ESE other than Gifted) or other students who may not meet the established eligibility criteria:

a. Secondary school ELL applicants must have FCAT 2.0 reading and mathematics (or Algebra End-of-Course test) scores for reading or mathematics at or above the levels(s) required for the specific Magnet program as specified for program criteria. The applicants must have a GPA at or above the required GPA in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics for the specific program to which they are applying.

b. For secondary school applicants for whom FCAT 2.0 and/or norm-referenced standardized examination scores are unavailable, a student's portfolio demonstrating proficiency in reading or mathematics in English or the student's native language (for ELL student) and teacher recommendations may be utilized in place of examination scores. Applicants must have a GPA at or above the required GPA in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics for specific Magnet programs. For ELL students who have recently arrived in the United States, grades earned in the home country while still in residence there can be used.

Names of ELL and/or ESE applicants who meet the above eligibility criteria through the alternative process will be placed into the qualified applicant pool. In the case of a student whose extraordinary and/or special needs require the development of an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or an Educational Plan (EP), attendance at a Magnet school/program must be consistent with his/her IEP/EP.

B. Application Process - The Superintendent or his/her designee shall make Magnet applications available at all schools and at the School District's administrative offices. Magnet brochures and applications will be available through U.S. Mail and/or through the School District's website to the parent(s)/legal guardian of all K, 1st, 2nd and identified 5th and 8th grade students currently attending a Broward County Public School. All parent(s)/legal guardian of students interested in applying for a Magnet school/program for the following school year, must complete a written or online application and submit it between the first school day of December and the designated February deadline date identified by the Demographics & Student Assignments Department. When applying to a Magnet school/program that is available in multiple locations, the parent(s)/legal guardian must apply to the school closest to the home address which aligns with the transportation zone. When there are more eligible students than available seats in a given grade level at a Magnet school/program, the District shall select students for the grade level at the Magnet school/program by a computerized random selection process as defined in the assignment priority in "DEFINITIONS" section of this Policy. Students who have applied and been awarded a seat in the District's Magnet K-8 program will continue in the program to the highest grade.

At the beginning of January each year, the District will evaluate the extent to which the annual applicant pool for Magnet schools reflects the geographic, gender, racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, linguistic, and special needs diversity of the District as a whole. If any identifiable group of students in the annual applicant pool according to these criteria is under-represented, the District shall recruit additional Magnet applicants from the under-represented groups before the computerized random selection process is implemented.

After the computerized random selection process, an applicant wait pool will be created for each of the oversubscribed Magnet schools/programs. A student will be placed in only one applicant wait pool at a time. The applicant wait pool will be maintained until the 10-day enrollment count, and student vacancies will be filled until that time. Students in the wait pool who are offered assignments to a Magnet school/program must accept the assignment at the time offered. Failure to do so will require a new application for the next school year.

C. Assignment Priority - The following selections have priority prior to the computerized random selection process:

1. Dependent children of active-duty military personnel (who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for special academic programs such as advanced placement, dual enrollment and International Baccalaureate for Magnet programs) shall be given first preference for admission to such programs when an application is submitted, even if the program is being offered through a public school other than the boundary school to which the student would generally be assigned. F.S. 1003.05(3). There must be planned space available at the school to award a seat.

2. Elementary school applicants, who have a sibling currently attending a K-5 level Magnet school/program, who will continue to attend the following year, and who meet the application deadline, will be placed in the same Magnet elementary school/program on a space-available basis prior to the computerized random selection process. Siblings that apply at the same time and do not have a sibling currently attending the Magnet school/program will be given a priority if the other sibling is selected through the computerized random selection process when a seat becomes available at the specific grade level.

3. Secondary school applicants who have a sibling who will continue at the same Magnet school/program (sibling must meet the eligibility criteria) and who meet the application deadline, will be placed in that school/program on a space-available basis prior to the computerized random selection process. Siblings that apply at the same time and do not have a sibling currently attending the Magnet school/program, will be given a priority if the other sibling is selected through the computerized random selection process when a seat becomes available at the specific grade level, provided the sibling meets the program criteria.

4. Students presently in a Magnet school/program and wishing to continue in the same theme at the next level (middle and high), must apply between the first school day in December and the designated February deadline date identified. If the student meets the entrance criteria, he/she will be placed in the Magnet school/program on a space-available basis prior to the computerized random selection process.

5. A confirmed, permanent School Board employee, assigned a full-time work schedule at the requested school, may request through the application process that his/her child be placed in the Magnet school (secondary Magnet school applicants must meet criteria) on a space-available basis prior to the computerized random selection process if the employee has met the application deadline.

6. Magnet applicants that are assigned to a boundary school whose enrollment exceeds 110% of the Permanent FISH Capacity of the school, will be granted a priority at schools with available seats. Twenty-five percent (25%) of available

seats will be awarded to applicants who are assigned to schools over 110% Permanent FISH Capacity.

7. Students who have applied and been awarded a seat in the District's Magnet K-8 program will continue in the program to the highest grade .

D. Transportation - The School Board shall provide transportation to all students in out-of-boundary Magnet schools/programs who reside more than two miles from the Magnet school/program as determined by the established Magnet transportation zone and for elementary students residing within two miles who face hazardous walking conditions. The parent(s)/legal guardian understands that the child is subject to the Student Code of Conduct while on the bus. Where economically feasible, the School Board shall also provide activity buses to and from Magnet secondary schools/programs to enable students to participate in extracurricular activities offered at the Magnet school/program which they attend.

E. Appeals/Hardships - Applicants who do not meet eligibility criteria may be considered eligible based on special circumstances and will have the opportunity to submit the information listed below to the Magnet school for review by the Magnet Review Panel. This Review Panel will be comprised of Magnet coordinators and other appropriate personnel, established and chaired by the Superintendent or his/her impartial designee. The application review process may take into consideration:

1. a written recommendation of teachers and/or administrators,
2. a written explanation of special circumstances indicating the student's ability to succeed in a Magnet school/program compiled by both the sending school and the receiving Magnet school,
3. an interview with the student, where appropriate, and/or
4. a student's portfolio demonstrating proficiency at the assigned grade level in reading and/or mathematics in English and/or the student's native language.

F. Withdrawals

1. Elementary Magnet school/program placement is in effect through the remainder of the grades in the receiving school unless rescinded by the Office of Service Quality or by the School Board. Elementary Magnet school/program placement may be rescinded at any time after documented interventions have been attempted during the school year by the Office of Service Quality for repeated violations of the Code of Student Conduct guidelines including poor attendance, excessive tardiness, or inappropriate behavior, and failure to follow school procedures. When students do not follow the rules and expectations outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, one or more of the actions listed in the Code of Student Conduct may be taken until the problem is resolved.
2. If an elementary student moves out of the Magnet "transportation zone," the

student may remain in the Magnet school/program through the remainder of the grades if the parent provides transportation.

3. If an elementary student moves out of the boundary of the elementary Magnet school/program but still resides within the Magnet transportation zone, the student may remain enrolled at the Magnet elementary school/program utilizing existing transportation.

4. If a Magnet student moves out of a Magnet transportation zone into another Magnet transportation zone in which the SAME THEME Magnet program is available, the Magnet student will have priority for a seat at the receiving Magnet school/program. This does not apply to students changing school level.

5. At the secondary level, students admitted to the Magnet schools/programs may remain in these schools/programs as long as their parent(s)/legal guardian are residents of Broward County, the student has not been withdrawn to attend another school, public or private, and the student maintains a 2.5 GPA. Students in the Performing & Visual Arts program, will be required to maintain a 2.0 GPA.

a. With the exception of a secondary Magnet student attending a Performing & Visual Arts program, any other secondary Magnet student who is experiencing difficulty maintaining a 2.5 GPA shall have documented opportunity to receive appropriate counseling and assistance at his/her Magnet school/program. A Performing & Visual Arts student who is experiencing difficulty maintaining a 2.0 GPA shall have documented opportunity to receive appropriate counseling and assistance at his/her Magnet school/program. However, if a student fails to maintain a 2.5 GPA (or 2.0 GPA for Performing & Visual Arts) for two consecutive semesters or one full school year (dependent upon the school's schedule), with documented interventions, he/she will be ineligible to continue in the Magnet school/program and will be assigned to his/her home school, based on approved school boundaries.

i. Whereas a secondary Magnet school/program is identified as under-enrolled, the administration at that secondary Magnet school/program may opt to extend the time frame of the documented interventions for a student in the event that removal of that student would increase a declining enrollment trend at the school.

ii. Secondary Magnet school/program placement may be rescinded at any time after documented interventions have been attempted during the school year by the Office of Service Quality for repeated violations of the Code of Student Conduct guidelines including poor attendance, excessive tardiness, or inappropriate behavior, and failure to follow school procedures. When students do not follow the rules and expectations outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, one or more of the actions listed in the Code of

Student Conduct may be taken until the problem is resolved.

6. Requests for withdrawal must be filed with the principal of the school and the Director of Innovative Programs. Withdrawals for the purpose of the relocation of the student's parent(s)/legal guardian outside of Broward County or to allow a student to enter a private school shall be granted at any time. Withdrawals for the purpose of attending the affected student's regularly assigned public home school, based on approved boundaries, shall be granted at any time.

7. A student who withdraws from a Magnet school/program must reapply for admission according to the provision of this Policy.

8. Any request for temporary leave from a Magnet school/program must be approved by the principal of the school and the Director of Demographics & Student Assignments before the student is withdrawn. A leave of absence from the Magnet school/program shall be considered in the following situations:

a. A student may be granted a leave of absence from the Magnet school/program for the period of time necessary to complete any of the following programs or hospital stays: being a patient in a hospital for an extended period of time; being enrolled in the Board's Hospital Homebound Program; acceptance into a Board approved Alternative Education Program or other exceptional education programs; enrollment in a licensed, full-time substance abuse treatment program; or participation as an exchange student.

b. If a family or student is moving out of Broward County temporarily, a leave of absence may be granted for a maximum of one (1) year.

G. Monitoring and Reporting - After the benchmark day enrollment count each school year, the first Monday after Labor Day, the Demographics & Student Assignments Department, in conjunction with the Innovative Programs Design/Support Department, will report the impact of the student enrollment. This report shall include:

1. the number and characteristics of students who submitted a completed application, registered and attends the school;

2. data reflecting the reasons for which applications were granted or denied District-wide;

3. the impact of the number of enrolled students through the seat allocation/assignment processes that enrolled on the Permanent FISH Capacity and the diversity of each school;

4. planning tool;

5. in November of each year, seats available at any Broward County Public School will be annually reviewed for enrollment/program needs and included in

the school boundary recommendation process; and

6. any recommendations regarding modifications to this Policy or its rules.

3. NOVA SCHOOLS

A. Eligibility - The parent(s)/legal guardian and student applying to the Nova schools must be a resident of Broward County. There are no academic eligibility criteria. In the case of a student whose special needs require the development of an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), attendance at the Nova school must be consistent with the official IEP. The parent(s)/legal guardian must secure a student identification number for child(ren) from the boundary school, if not currently registered with Broward County Public Schools, to be considered for a Nova school placement.

B. Application Process - Applications for the following school year will be accepted from all students registered with the Broward County school system on an annual basis by the Demographics & Student Assignments Department. Applications will be accepted from the first school day in December through a designated date in February. Where there are more applicants than available seats in a given grade level at a Nova school, the District shall select students for each grade level by a computerized random selection process as defined in the "DEFINITIONS" section of this Policy.

The applicant wait pool will be maintained until the 10-day enrollment count, and student seat vacancies will be filled until that time. Students in the applicant wait pool who are offered an assignment to a Nova school must accept the assignment at the time offered. Failure to do so will require a new application. Students admitted to the Nova schools may remain in the Nova school as long as their parent(s)/legal guardian are residents of Broward County and the student has not been withdrawn to attend another school, public or private, or rescinded by the Office of School Performance and Accountability due to violations per the Code of Student Conduct.

At the beginning of January each year, the District will evaluate the extent to which the annual applicant pool for Nova schools reflects the geographic, gender, racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, linguistic, and special needs diversity of the District as a whole. If any identifiable group of students in the annual applicant pool according to these criteria is under-represented, the District shall recruit additional Nova applicants from the under-represented groups before the computerized random selection process is implemented. Applicants that are assigned to a boundary school whose enrollment exceeds 110% of the Permanent FISH Capacity of the school, will be granted a priority for available seats. Twenty-five percent (25%) of available seats will be awarded to students who are assigned to schools over 110% Permanent FISH Capacity.

C. Assignment Priority - The following selections have priority prior to the computerized random selection process:

1. Dependent children of active-duty military personnel shall be given first preference for admission to such programs when an application is submitted, even if the program is being offered through a public school other than the boundary school to which the student would generally be assigned. F.S. 1003.05(3). There must be planned space available at the school to award a seat.

2. School applicants, who have a sibling currently attending a K-12 level Nova school, who will continue to attend the following year, and who meet the application deadline, will be placed in a Nova school on a space-available basis prior to the computerized random selection process. Siblings that apply at the same time and do not have a sibling currently attending a Nova school will be given a priority if the other sibling is selected through the computerized random selection process when a seat becomes available at the specific grade level.

3. A confirmed, permanent School Board employee, assigned a full-time work schedule at the requested school, may request through the application process that his/her child be placed in a Nova school on a space-available basis prior to the computerized random selection process if the employee has met the application deadline.

4. Students selected to attend a Nova program will be given an opportunity to attend and remain in Nova, K through grade 12, provided they remain in full compliance with all Board policies.

5. Students who apply and meet the application deadline date for a Nova program, who have a documented sibling attending a Nova school and the sibling will continue to attend the following year, will be placed at a Nova school prior to the computerized random selection process provided seats are available at the requested grade level. Siblings that apply at the same time and do not have a sibling currently attending a Nova school, will be given a priority if the other sibling is selected through the computerized random selection process when a seat becomes available at the specific grade level.

D. Transportation - The School Board shall provide transportation to all Nova students that reside more than two miles from the assigned Nova school and for elementary students residing within two miles who face hazardous walking conditions. The parent(s)/legal guardian understands that the child is subject to the Student Code of Conduct while on the bus.

E. Appeals/Hardships - There are no appeals or hardships to the application process for the Nova schools.

F. Withdrawals

1. Nova school placement may be rescinded at any time by the affected Office of Service Quality after documented interventions have been attempted during the school year for repeated violations of the Code of Student Conduct guidelines including poor attendance, excessive tardiness, or inappropriate behavior, and failure to follow school procedures. When students do not follow the rules and expectations outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, one or more of the actions under the procedures in the Code of Student Conduct may be taken until the problem is resolved.

2. Requests for withdrawal must be filed with the principal of the school and the Director of Demographics & Student Assignments. Withdrawals for the purpose of the relocation of the student's parent(s)/legal guardian outside of Broward County or to allow a student to enter a private school shall be granted at any time.

Withdrawals for the purpose of attending the affected student's regularly assigned public school, based on approved boundaries, shall be granted at any time.

3. Any request for temporary leave from the Nova schools must be approved by the Principal and the Director of Demographics & Student Assignments before the student is withdrawn. A leave of absence from the Nova schools shall be considered in the following situations:

a. A student may be granted a leave of absence from the Nova schools for the period of time necessary to complete any of the following programs or hospital stays: being a patient in a hospital for an extended period of time; being enrolled in the Board's Hospital Homebound Program; acceptance into a Board-approved Alternative Education Program or other exceptional education programs; enrollment in a licensed, full-time substance abuse treatment program; or participation as an exchange student.

b. If a family or student is moving out of Broward County temporarily, a leave of absence may be granted for a maximum of one (1) year.

4. A student who withdraws from the Nova schools must reapply for admission according to the provisions of this Policy, with no preferential treatment given for re-admission.

G. Monitoring and Reporting - After the benchmark day enrollment count each school year, the first Monday after Labor Day, the Demographics & Student Assignments Department will report the impact of the student enrollment. This report shall include:

1. the number and characteristics of students who submitted a completed application, registered and attends the school;

2. data reflecting the reasons for which applications were granted or denied District-wide;

3. the impact of the number of enrolled students through the seat allocation/assignment processes that enrolled on the Permanent FISH Capacity and the diversity of each school;

4. in November of each year, seats available at any Broward County Public School will be annually reviewed for enrollment/program needs and included in the school boundary recommendation process; and

5. any recommendations regarding modifications to this Policy or its rules.

4. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP)

A. Eligibility - Students attending or will be attending a school that received performance grade points equal to an "F" or three consecutive "Ds."

B. Application Process - The application window for OSP begins after the reporting of FCAT 2.0 testing results in June or July. Before submitting an application, the parent(s)/legal guardian must obtain a student identification number for their child(ren) from the boundary school if not currently registered with Broward County Public School. Parent(s)/legal guardian with a child at or planning to attend an identified OSP school, will be notified during the summer each year about the requirements for OSP schools that have received an "F" or three consecutive "Ds in points scored from the State. Students will have a choice of schools to choose from and rank by preference. Every effort will be made to place students in their first choice, but it is not guaranteed. OSP notification letters will be mailed home to the parent of every child that has filled out and returned a timely application notifying them of their awarded school and details to register. OSP applications for incoming, new-to-the-District students that are boundaried to one of the designated OSP schools, will be provided a copy of the letter and application at their designated boundaried school when they register their child.

C. Assignment Priority - OSP is available to all eligible students attending a designated OSP school that has not already been offered Choice, that complete an OSP application, and has submitted it by the designated deadline date. All students who submit a timely OSP application will be given a placement with transportation within this District for those living more than two miles away from the awarded school.

D. Transportation - Transportation is provided for all students opting to participate in OSP within this District. The parent(s)/legal guardian understands that the child is subject to the Student Code of Conduct while on the bus.

E. Appeals/Hardships - The parent(s)/legal guardian of a student who is eligible at an OSP school designated by the State, may request an appeal to the decision of the OSP process by calling the Demographics & Student Assignments Department by no later than 10 calendar days from the date of notification of the decision or 10 days after the application deadline, whichever is later. A Documented Challenges Committee will be identified and appointed by the Chief Portfolio Services Officer to review all documents on a weekly basis and provide notification of decision on the parent(s)/legal guardian's appeal within 48 hours of the Documented Challenges Committee meeting. Hardships do not apply to OSP. A parent/legal guardian may request an appeal for the following circumstances:

1. incorrect address in the student information system (which must be corrected by parent(s)/legal guardian at boundary school and student information systems before parent is eligible for an appeal);
2. sibling (not guaranteed under OSP); or
3. documented ongoing medical or psychological reasons, confirmed by school staff and the school district's medical professional.

F. Withdrawals - Withdrawals for the purpose of the relocation of the student's parent(s)/legal guardian outside of Broward County or to allow a student to enter a private school, shall be granted at any time. Withdrawals for the purpose of a student to attend their home boundaried public school, shall be granted at any time.

G. Monitoring and Reporting - After the benchmark day enrollment count each school year, the first Monday after Labor Day, the Demographics & Student Assignments Department will report the impact of the student enrollment.

5. REASSIGNMENTS

A. Eligibility - Any student residing in Broward County is eligible to request a reassignment to attend a school other than the boundaried school. Reassignment seats will be allocated at schools that are below the identified Permanent FISH Capacity and projected to remain under such capacity. **Should a school be at 102% or above the Permanent FISH Capacity, the only hardship approvals will be for students who are currently attending the school and have a custodial need (death of a parent) unless an older sibling has been assigned to a specific program such as an ESE cluster. Parents will have an opportunity to request a Hardship meeting should there be no space available at the assigned school of the older ESE sibling. Hardship appeals will not be heard for schools beyond 102% their Permanent FISH Capacity. However, if the older sibling is in 5th, 8th, or 12th grade, the younger sibling may be given only a one-year reassignment.**

The parent(s)/legal guardian must secure a student identification number for child(ren) from the boundary school, if not currently registered with Broward County Public Schools to be considered for reassignment placement. If a student is requesting a reassignment to remain at his/her school for the highest grade (5th, 8th, 12th), the student will be able to remain at the school to complete his/her last year. **A student applying that already has a sibling attending the requested school, will have a preference based on seats available. Once a reassignment is granted, the student may remain at the reassigned school until he/she completes the highest grade, unless otherwise specified by Board Policies, or Code of Student Conduct. There are no academic eligibility criteria. Reassignment requests for curricular programs, not offered at other schools will be considered.**

1. Commencing with the first day of the second semester, any student who moves out of the attendance boundary area for his/her school shall be allowed, upon completion of the reassignment request form by parent(s)/legal guardian, to complete the second semester in the school that the student has been attending. If the student wishes to continue at the same school the following year, however, the student must obtain a reassignment pursuant to this Policy.
2. For schools which the School Board has approved a boundary change, and for the first year of the implementation of the boundary change, high school students meeting the highest-grade criteria and entering grade 12 will receive an automatic approval to remain at the current school with transportation. Students entering grade five and grade eight will go through the reassignment process for approval

as space permits, but no transportation services will be provided.

a. **Athletic Eligibility** - In order to represent a school in any athletic sport, a student must be living at a residence within the boundary attendance zone with a parent/legal guardian or legal custodial adult of that school. In order to practice with a school in any athletic sports, a player must be boundary-assigned to that school or have an approved, current reassignment of that school. A student shall be eligible in the school in which he/she first enrolls each school year, and makes himself/herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in an athletic practice prior to enrolling in any Florida Athletic Association school. The student shall be eligible in that school so long as he/she remains enrolled in that school and meets all other eligibility requirements (e.g. academic standing/GPA requirements/residency). A student who transfers attendance from one public school to another public school following his/her initial enrollment, or engagement in athletic practice, shall be ineligible to represent the new school he/she is attending for the duration of that school year. This rule shall not apply if the change of attendance from one school to another is accompanied by a corresponding change in residence on the part of the student's parent(s)/legal guardian or other individual with whom the student has lived continuously for a full calendar year, which makes it necessary for him/her to attend a different school. A student may file a waiver or hardship appeal with the Florida Activities Association regarding their athletic ineligibility.

B. Application Process - The Superintendent or his/her designee shall make reassignment applications available at all schools, at the Demographics & Student Assignments Department, and via the www.browardschools.com website. Parent(s)/legal guardian shall submit completed forms for a reassignment for the following school year to the Demographics & Student Assignments Department, between the first school day in December and a designated date in February. A reassignment may be granted when it has been determined that the school has Permanent FISH Capacity based on historical enrollment trends and when a reassignment would not increase the school's enrollment beyond Permanent FISH Capacity.

In April, following the registration deadline for all choice options, a random lottery will be conducted for reassignment seats that become available due to parents not registering their student at the awarded school. Only applicants who applied during the first day of school in December to a designated date in February reassignment application window who were not awarded a reassignment seat will be included in the random selection lottery. All other reassignment applications will be considered late.

Late reassignments may be granted on a first come first serve basis beginning in May to schools that may have reassignment seats available following the December through designated date in February reassignment window facilitated by the Demographics & Student Assignments Department.

Reassignments that are not submitted to the Demographics & Student Assignments Department, or via the www.browardschools.com website by the above deadline date,

shall be considered earlier only in cases of special needs related to court orders, adoption, and military orders.

The Office of Service Quality Directors shall review the circumstances of any application past the first day of school based upon the provisions of this Policy and render a decision.

C. Assignment Priority - Reassignment priorities will include the following: 1) students who have a parent/legal guardian on active military duty; 2) full-time school board employees who are employed at the requested school or within a five-mile radius from the official work location and has met the application deadline; 3) curricular program requests (based upon definition outlined in this Policy above); 4) supervision for students age 12 years or younger per state law; 5) **an identified sibling on the reassignment application provided seats are available**; 6) **students who have a sibling currently attending or assigned to the requested school due to a placement in an ESE program**; and 7) **siblings that apply at the same time and do not have a sibling currently attending the requested school will be given a priority if the other sibling is selected through the computerized random selection process when a seat becomes available at the specific grade level. There is no automatic approval for a student to matriculate to the next school through the reassignment process, including a prior placement in a Pre-K program at a requested school. In addition, sibling(s) of a Pre-K student are not guaranteed a reassignment seat at the same school. In the case of a sibling applicant, a younger sibling will not be automatically approved to attend the same reassigned school of the older sibling(s) unless reassignment seats are available.**

D. Transportation - For all reassignment approvals, the parent(s)/legal guardian will be notified that they must assume responsibility for transportation, attendance, and behavior of the student, and that failure to do so will result in a rescission of the reassignment. The District is not obligated to provide transportation for reassigned students. It is the parent(s)/legal guardian's responsibility to provide transportation to the reassigned school. A parent/legal guardian can request, via their requested school, a seat on the school bus through the "empty seat" policy. However, a seat is not guaranteed. A reassignment at one school level does not guarantee the approval of a reassignment at the next school level.

E. Appeals/Hardships

1. Hardship circumstances will be taken into consideration, dependent upon the Permanent FISH Capacity of the requested school. Hardship allocations will not increase enrollment above 102% of the identified Permanent FISH Capacity at that site. Should a school be at 102% or above the Permanent FISH Capacity, the only hardship approvals will be for students who are currently attending the school and have a custodial need (death of a parent) unless an older sibling has been assigned to a specific program such as an ESE cluster. Parents will have an opportunity to request a Hardship meeting should there be no space available at the assigned school of the older ESE sibling. Hardship appeals will not be heard for schools beyond 102% their Permanent FISH Capacity. However, if the older sibling is in 5th, 8th, or 12th grade, the younger sibling may be given only a one-year reassignment.

Parents will be notified if a school is beyond 102% of its Permanent FISH Capacity and that their request must meet criteria. If the hardship criteria defined above is met, parents will be afforded the opportunity to have their hardship appeal reviewed by the Superintendent's Hardship Committee.

2. If a parent/legal guardian believes that any of the reassignment procedures listed in this Policy have been violated, he/she may appeal in writing to the Superintendent or his/her designee. An appeal to the Superintendent must be received in the Demographics & Student Assignments Department no later than fifteen (15) calendar days from the receipt of a reassignment denial letter and a completed reassignment application must be on file as received in the Demographics & Student Assignments Department during the current application window. The Superintendent shall select a designee to hear the appeal.

3. A hardship appeal will not be heard or approved should the school be at or above 102% Permanent FISH Capacity, or if the approval would create State sanctions against the District due to failure to meet class size reduction or school concurrency the year of the requested hardship/reassignment.

4. A parent/legal guardian may submit a letter to the Demographics & Student Assignments Department requesting a hardship appeal for denial of a reassignment under one of the circumstances listed below. Upon receipt of a reassignment denial letter, the parent(s)/legal guardian has 15 calendar days in which to submit a letter requesting to meet with the Superintendent's Hardship Committee to appeal the reassignment denial. The letter must describe the hardship in detail and provide all available documentation when necessary. The letter must be postmarked no later than 15 calendar days of receipt of denial letter for the family to be eligible for a scheduled hardship committee hearing. The Superintendent's Hardship Committee shall hear appeals for timely reassignment applications and will meet from May – July of each year. The Superintendent's Hardship Committee shall hear the appeal and notify the parent(s)/legal guardian of the outcome in a timely manner. This constitutes the final administrative decision at all levels.

Hardship appeals for schools not over 102% permanent capacity may be based on:

- a. unique circumstances that prevent the student(s) from attending the boundaried school; and/or
- b. documented ongoing medical, psychological, or safety concerns confirmed by school staff and the School District's medical professional; or
- c. students who have a specific custodial need such as the death of a parent and the student currently attends the school, will be granted a Hardship; or

If granted a hardship appeal committee meeting, the parent will be provided with

a written explanation of the process as the last and final step of the appeal and will be required to acknowledge receipt of such.

F. Withdrawals

1. Withdrawals for the purpose of the relocation of the student's parent(s)/legal guardian outside of Broward County or to allow a student to enter a private school, shall be granted at any time. Withdrawals for the purpose of attending the affected student's regularly assigned public school, based on approved boundaries, shall be granted at any time.

2. Granted reassignments may be rescinded at any time during the school year by the affected Office of Service Quality for violations of the Code of Student Conduct Guidelines. Whenever possible, the student will be returned to the assigned bounded school during a scheduled break in the school year, such as at the end of the quarter or semester. When students do not follow the rules and expectations outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, one or more of the actions under the procedures in the Code of Student Conduct may be taken until the problem is resolved.

3. Should a student's reassignment be rescinded, the student may only request a reassignment when transitioning to the next school level or if deemed a special circumstance through the Office of Service Quality.

a. Subsequent requests will not be considered except for court orders, adoption, military orders, or other unique/special circumstances with appropriate documentation.

4. Any request for temporary leave from the reassigned school must be approved by the principal and the Director of Demographics & Student Assignments before the student is withdrawn. A leave of absence from the reassigned school shall be considered in the following situations:

a. A student may be granted a leave of absence from the reassigned school for the period of time necessary to complete any of the following programs or hospital stays: being a patient in a hospital for an extended period of time; being enrolled in the Board's Hospital Homebound Program; acceptance into a Board-approved Alternative Education Program or other exceptional education programs; enrollment in a licensed, full-time substance abuse treatment program; or participation as an exchange student.

b. If a family or student is moving out of Broward County temporarily, a leave of absence may be granted for a maximum of one (1) year.

5. A student who withdraws from the reassigned school must reapply for admission according to the provisions of this Policy, with no preferential treatment given for re-admission. If a student withdraws from a reassigned school, the reassignment becomes null and void, except for the provisions listed

above in 4a. and 4b.

G. Monitoring and Reporting - After the benchmark day enrollment count each school year, the first Monday after Labor Day, the Demographics & Student Assignments Department will report the impact of the student enrollment. This report shall include:

1. the number and characteristics of students who submitted a completed application, registered and attends the school;
2. data reflecting the reasons for which applications were granted or denied District-wide;
3. the impact of the number of enrolled students through the seat allocation/assignment processes that enrolled on the Permanent FISH Capacity and the diversity of each school;
4. in November of each year, seats available at any Broward County Public School will be annually reviewed for enrollment/program needs and included in the school boundary recommendation process; and
5. any recommendations regarding modifications to this Policy or its rules.

6. THE COLLEGE ACADEMY AT BROWARD COLLEGE

A. Eligibility – The College Academy at Broward College uses elevated dual enrollment criteria for admissions.

B. Application Process – All students interested in applying to The College Academy at Broward College for the following school year, must submit a completed application to The College Academy and a dual enrollment application to Broward College. Students meeting initial application requirements will be scheduled to take the PERT. A test score report must be submitted to The College Academy. When the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of seats available, a random selection process will be utilized to admit eligible applicants.

C. Assignment Priority – There are no assignment priorities for The College Academy.

D. Transportation – The School Board shall provide transportation to all College Academy students who reside more than two miles from the assigned college campus.

E. Appeals/Hardships – There are no appeals or hardships to the application process for The College Academy at Broward College.

F. Withdrawals:

1. Students must maintain a 2.5 unweighted college GPA to remain in the

school/program. An evaluation is conducted each term.

2. Withdrawals for the purpose of attending the affected student's regularly assigned public school, based on approved boundaries, shall be granted at any time.

7. Broward Virtual School

A. Eligibility - Student eligibility for participation in the District's Florida Virtual School franchise program (grades 6-12) is governed by F.S. 1002.37. Student eligibility in the District's virtual instruction program (grades K-8) is governed by F.S. 1002.45. Student eligibility for the District's virtual instruction program is only available to students residing in Broward County who meet at least one of the following conditions as specified by §.1002.455, Florida Statutes:

Criteria

1. The student is eligible to enter kindergarten or first grade §.1002.455 (2)(e)
2. Students eligible to enter grades 2 through 5 do not need to have previously enrolled in a Florida public school to enroll full-time in a school district virtual instruction program, virtual charter school, or the Florida Virtual School §.1002.455 (2)(f)
3. Students entering grades 6 through 12 are eligible to enroll under §.1002.37 and/or §.1002.455 depending on the virtual instruction program choice. Students must also meet academic criteria to enroll full-time.

Parents interested in choosing Broward Virtual School for their student must apply online during the open enrollment periods described in the Enrollment Periods section of this manual.

B. Application Process - Parents interested in choosing Broward Virtual School for their student must apply online during the open enrollment periods described in the Enrollment Periods section of this manual.

1. Students may apply to Broward Virtual School's franchise program (grades 6-12) from May 1 through a September date.
2. Students may apply to Broward Virtual School's K12 program (grades K-5) from an identified date in April to an identified date in July.

Enrollment in the K12 program must conclude 30 days prior to the first day of school per §.1002.455. In April, letters are distributed to students outlining virtual options. Parents interested in choosing this educational option for their student can apply during the enrollment windows. Enrollment periods for the three other virtual instruction programs are governed by the individual programs.

C. Assignment Priority – There is no assignment priority for Broward Virtual.

D. Transportation – Not Applicable

E. Appeals/Hardship - Not Applicable

F. Withdrawals - School Enrollment Continuation Standards – An evaluation of each student will be conducted at the end of each semester to determine their continued enrollment eligibility. To maintain continuous enrollment at Broward Virtual School, a student must:

1. Earn grades of C or higher in each course
2. Maintain consistent weekly pacing in every class to meet all deadlines and attendance expectations
3. Communicate consistently and successfully with teachers
4. Participate in all standardized testing
5. Earn sufficient credits to be promoted to the next grade level and graduate in 4 years or less
6. Maintain sufficient reading skills at or above grade level
7. Honor all rules, policies, and procedures established by Broward Virtual School and Broward County Public Schools for student conduct, academic integrity, and netiquette.

Those students who fail to meet the minimum continuation standards will be withdrawn and given a list of alternatives to meet their educational goals.

G. Monitoring and Reporting - Broward Virtual School is under the supervision of the Chief Officer of the School Performance and Accountability Department.

THE RULES LISTED BELOW SHALL GOVERN MAGNET SCHOOLS, NOVA SCHOOLS, REASSIGNMENTS, AND OSP., ~~AND NCLB CHOICE.~~

AUTHORITY: 1001.41(1), (2); 1003.05(3)

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: STUDENT AND PARENTAL RIGHTS AND EDUCATIONAL CHOICES, F.S. 1002.31; 1002.38

History:

Policy Adopted: 12/15/09; Policy Amended: 12/07/10, 5/15/12, 1/22/2014

Formerly Policy 5001 - AUTHORITY: F.S. 1001.41; Policy Adopted: 11/13/69; Policy Readopted: 9/5/74; Policy Amended: 6/19/80, 1/20/83, 3/3/83, 9/3/96, 4/8/97, 9/2/97, 6/20/00, 1/21/03, 11/09/04, Emergency Rule #E482-15, 6/6/83, 6/16/83, 5/17/84, 7/18/95, 3/19/96. Repealed 12/15/09.

Formerly Policy 5003 - AUTHORITY: F.S. 1001.41; Policy Adopted: 1/25/68; Amended Policy Approved: 10/18/73, 9/3/91, 4/20/93, 3/19/96, 8/20/96; Amended Policy Approved: 1/21/97, 6/15/04. Repealed 12/15/09.

Formerly Policy 5004 - AUTHORITY: F.S. 1001.41(1), (2); 1002.20 (6a); 1003.05(3); Policy Adopted: 6/2/88, 10/17/89, 5/1/90, 5/2/95, 9/3/96; Amended Policy Adopted: 4/8/97, 5/15/01, 4/23/02, 10/1/02, 6/17/03, 4/20/04, 9/9/08. Repealed 12/15/09.