



SD 42 POLICY: 9200

SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS AND STUDENT PLACEMENT

Philosophy

A student may enroll in an educational program at any school in our school district, providing that the application to enroll is received by a specified date and there is space, as outlined by Sections 2(2) and 74.1 of the School Act, this Policy and its Procedures.

The Board of Education will designate school catchment areas in the School District in order to:

- meet the program needs of the students as much as possible;
- make the best use of facilities, staff and transportation; and if possible,
- enable the school to develop a unique identity.

Authority

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish procedures that will guide the implementation of this policy and to establish school, grade, class and program capacities in accordance with the School Act and Board policy and procedures.

Guiding Principles

The principles for setting/changing catchment areas should include, but is not limited to, the requirement for boundaries to:

- reflect traditional neighbourhoods, subdivisions and regions;
- minimize safety concerns for elementary students;
- reflect long-term development to minimize stress caused by frequently changing boundaries in rapidly growing/declining areas;
- maximize the efficiency of schools;
- maintain a cohort of students at each grade level offered at the school, to support the long-term sustainability of the school.

Where space permits, students should be allowed to remain in currently assigned schools and catchment area changes will apply only to new registrations.

In some situations, it may be necessary and desirable to relocate students from one school to another. The two most common reasons for relocation are capping and reassigning.

Capping occurs when a school, grade, class or program has reached capacity as determined by the school district. New students wishing to register in a capped school, grade, class or program will be directed to another school. When capping occurs:

- Students who have been directed to another school will have first option, based on a chronological list, of returning to their catchment area school when space becomes available during the year.
- Students will have the option of returning to their catchment area school at the beginning of the new school year if space is available or remaining at the school to which they were directed.

Reassigning occurs when a student transfers to a school outside their home catchment school area as a result of a request by the parent, student or administration.

A student placement decision made by the Superintendent or designate that significantly affects the student's education, health or safety may be appealed under the Appeals Policy and Procedure bylaw of the Board.

APPROVED: October 29, 2014

REVIEWED: January 2021