

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY
NEEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FILE

JFABC

Policy for:
ASSIGNMENT OF ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS

Revision

Date Approved by
School Committee:

March 19, 2019

Signature of Chair:



Aaron Pressman

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Students enrolling in the Needham Public Schools are assigned to one of the five elementary school attendance zones, based upon their residential address in Needham and according to the current street listing.

Under certain circumstances, the Superintendent may make an exception to the assignment of elementary students. Final decisions regarding student assignments to school attendance zones reside with the Superintendent.

The three exceptions include:

1. Parents may request that their child(ren) attend a school other than in their assigned attendance zone. Requests will be submitted in writing to the Superintendent. A decision will be made at the discretion of the Superintendent, in consultation with the sending and receiving principals. Parents moving their residence within Needham into a new school attendance zone and who wish to remain in their original school must request permission to do so under the terms of this policy.

School Committee class size guidelines (Policy IHB), class sizes in the student's currently assigned school and class sizes in the requested school, will be considered in the Superintendent's decision. The Superintendent may consider other factors as well at his/her discretion. Transportation to and from the school in the newly assigned attendance zone will be the responsibility of the parents requesting the transfer.

Once a student is assigned to a new school attendance zone, the student will remain at the receiving school for the duration of the student's elementary education.

2. The Superintendent may assign students newly enrolled in the Needham Public Schools to a school other than the one in their assigned attendance zone under certain circumstances. Circumstances include overcrowding or underenrollment; when there is development of new residential areas; when there is an opening of a new school; or to address any other situation which the Superintendent deems to be an extenuating circumstance and which is consistent with School Committee guidelines

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Students who are placed in an attendance zone outside of their designated assignment by the District may be eligible for transportation services, according to School Committee Policy EE, Transportation.

3. The School Committee may establish "buffer zones" for one or more elementary schools to provide flexibility in the assignment of students for families new to the Needham Public Schools. A buffer zone is a defined area for which individual addresses may be assigned to one of two elementary school attendance zones.

With respect to the assignment of families residing in buffer zones:

- The preference of the family will be considered in making the initial assignment. However, the Superintendent will use current and prospective enrollment, School Committee class size guidelines and other pertinent factors to guide decision making.
- Families who live in buffer zones are eligible for transportation services, according to School Committee Policy #EE, Transportation.
- Once a student is assigned a school, that will be the student's school until the conclusion of the fifth grade, unless the student's parent or guardian applies for, and is granted a transfer to a school in a different attendance zone as outlined in section # 1.
- The subsequent assignments of siblings in a given family will be made to the same school unless the family requests a different assignment.
- Assignments will be made at the discretion of the Superintendent.

The School Committee directs the Superintendent to consider the following factors in making school assignments within buffer zones: Class size equity, neighborhood continuity and cohesion, family disruption and preference, and any other factor determined to be relevant by the Superintendent.

The attendance areas designated as buffer zones are subject to periodic review by the Superintendent who will bring suggested changes to the School Committee for review and approval.