

North Providence School Department Intra-District Transfers Policy	Approved: 10/27/2021

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Students who legally reside in the Town of North Providence are entitled to attend school within the Town. It shall be the general policy of the North Providence School Committee (except as otherwise provided by law), that students who legally reside within the School District are entitled to attend a school designated by the North Providence School Committee as the site for their attendance. The North Providence School Committee believes in the neighborhood school concept which promotes parental and community involvement, investment and ownership in their local schools. Additionally, the North Providence School Committee believes that educating students in their neighborhood schools will promote and support sibling and other familial relationships resulting in a school environment which will fortify student achievement. It will also provide for a more rounded school career through easier access to both curricular and extracurricular activities (as well as other pre and post school day offerings).

However, the School Committee recognizes that under certain circumstances, exceptions to this general policy may become necessary to protect the interest of the student and to facilitate a more effective and efficient use of available resources. These exceptions shall be based upon the criteria delineated below. This policy does not address an involuntary transfer of a student for educational or non-educational reasons or the transfer of a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Multi Lingual Learners (MLL).

II. VOLUNTARY TRANSFER

Students who are legal residents of the Town of North Providence may request in writing a transfer from one school site to another within the District of the Town of North Providence by following the procedure below:

1. Parents shall be required to apply annually in writing, including providing documentation of an existing hardship necessitating the request. Students granted special permission must re-apply in writing yearly. Students who move from an elementary school to a middle school are required to re-apply in writing.

2. Students who are granted special permission to attend a school other than their home school are not eligible for bus transportation.

3. The Superintendent of Schools/designee may review the status of any transferred student on an annual basis to determine whether such transfer will be maintained in the following year. In the event that a prior transfer is reversed, the parents or guardians of such student shall be given prior written notice of the same and an opportunity to appeal such determination to the School Committee.

4. The decision to allow or to reverse a transfer shall be made by the Superintendent of Schools or designee based upon the following criteria:

- The capacity (or diminishment of capacity) of the neighborhood school and/or the transferee school to adequately and fully service the student and the other students in each school, including school enrollment and the availability of seats in the assigned grade level.
- Any costs associated with the transfer or retention of the student in the neighborhood school, including, but not limited to the payment of overages to certified staff.
- The ability of the parents or guardians to provide adequate transportation of the student (at no cost to the District) to the transferee school.
- Any extraordinary facts, hardships, or special circumstances presented by the parents or guardians to the Superintendent.
- The Superintendent/designee shall make written findings to support the decision.
- Any decision shall also be based on the basis of student equity, fairness and consistency with past decisions.

5. Once a determination has been made to allow an intra-district transfer, the transfer shall also apply to any siblings living in the same household.

6. The parents/guardians of any student who has been declined a transfer may appeal the decision to the School Committee, provided the appeal is in writing and notice of appeal is received by the Superintendent within ten days of their written decision.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This policy is based on the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island and is intended to be nondiscriminatory. Should any part of this policy be found to violate any statutory or constitutional provision, the remainder of this policy shall be considered severable and remain in full force and effect. This policy shall be considered to be amended from time to time to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state laws including, but not limited to, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Handicapped Children's Protection Act of 1986 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Approved: 10/27/2021