

POLICY

EXCEPTIONS TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS

POLICY AREA: **OPERATIONS**
POLICY #: **PO428**

INTRODUCTION

For a variety of reasons, parents may from time to time, have a need for their children to attend a school other than the one designated as the home school. In responding to the needs of parents the Board recognizes that having a process in place for exercising such an option provides some degree of flexibility and assists parents in managing the hectic lives of families in today's society.

DEFINITIONS

1. **School Attendance Areas** refers to the geographic area within the designated boundaries for a specific school.
2. A **home school** refers to the school designated for students residing within a specific school attendance area.
3. The **receiving school** refers to the school requested by the parents/guardians that is outside the school attendance area designated for their child(ren).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for allowing students the option to attend a school other than their home school.

APPLICATION/SCOPE

This policy applies to all parents and students under the jurisdiction of the Board.

PRINCIPLES

The Board believes that:

- students are best served by attending their home school;
- establishing boundaries for each school best serves the needs of the community;
- parents are the primary educators of their children;
- parents may have a need or legitimate reason for wanting their children to attend a school other than the home school;
- removing a student from their home school community and immediate neighborhood may impact on the student emotionally, socially and academically.

REQUIREMENTS

1. The Director of Education shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and amend them thereafter as the need may arise.
2. Parents/guardians shall apply in writing for exceptions to school attendance areas.
3. The approval for exceptions to school attendance areas shall be vested with the home school and receiving school principals.
4. Where approval is not granted, the parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the appropriate superintendent in accordance with the administrative procedures under this policy.
5. Subsequent renewals of approvals are subject to the written requests of parents/guardians.
6. Upon receiving a written request, principals shall approve exceptions to school attendance areas for the purpose of facilitating child care for elementary students and students with special needs. Where the child care facility is within a Board approved transporting zone, transportation shall be provided if required.
7. Upon receiving a written request, principals shall approve exceptions to school attendance areas for Board approved Regional Programs, including, but not limited to French Immersion and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). The provision for transportation for such requests shall be consistent with the Board's Transportation Policy.
8. Approval shall be granted for the purpose of facilitating a student's Pathways Program. Such approval will be with transportation.
9. Students who have attended grades 7 and 8 in an elementary school, other than their home school, shall upon request, be permitted to attend the secondary school associated with the elementary school they are leaving. The provision of transportation for such requests shall be consistent with the Board's Transportation Policy.
10. Where the appropriate superintendent deems that accommodation issues in a school do not permit the consideration for exceptions to school area, the home school principal shall notify the parents/guardians requesting an exception to school attendance area that applications are not being accepted.
11. Principals not accepting applications for exceptions to school attendance areas due to accommodation issues shall not accept students residing outside the Board's area of jurisdiction.

SOURCES

1. *Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2*

**RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCEDURES**

Exceptions to School Attendance Areas (AP427-1)