

J 1 f. Assignment of Students to Schools:

Voted 10/6/81, #81-461; 5/7/84, #84-171; 5/11/93, #93-148; 6/7/01, #01-65, #01-66, #01-67; 6/14/01, #01-77; 2/7/02, #02-14; 3/25/04, #04-23 and #04-25; 3/15/12, #12-18; 2/14/13, #13-13; 3/12/15, #15-16)

1. School Zones

a. Establishment of School and Buffer Zones

Each elementary school will have a school zone associated with it, i.e., addresses or groups of addresses near that school. Students residing in that school zone are assigned to that respective school.

In order to help mitigate overcrowding in a grade or school and/or help maintain balanced class sizes across our elementary schools, the School Committee may establish school “buffer zones,” i.e., addresses or groups of addresses, from which new students may be assigned by the Superintendent or his/her designee to any of multiple designated schools.

While committed to neighborhood elementary schools, the School Committee believes buffer zones are a necessary component of any strategy to manage enrollment because they provide the Superintendent greater flexibility to assign students to schools equitably with regards to space and resources, affording the best possible education for all students.

b. School Assignment for Students Residing in Buffer Zones

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

1. The preference of the family/caregiver(s) will be considered in making the initial assignment.
2. Unless the family/caregiver(s) request a different assignment, which will be considered according to the policy on out-of-zone transfers below, subsequent assignments of siblings will be made to the same school.

c. Periodic Review, Modification, Expansion, or Reassessment of Buffer Zone Need

In order to underscore the School Committee’s objective of maintaining strong neighborhood schools and reducing the uncertainty felt by some families who move into buffer zones, the School Committee shall periodically review the PSB’s need for buffer zones based on enrollments as well as the experience of the community with the buffer zones. Based on any such review, the School Committee may modify or expand buffer zones to include additional schools for potential student assignment provided, however, that such review does not guarantee repeal of any given buffer zone.

d. Public Access to Buffer Zone Information

A current map and full list and description of school attendance districts and buffer zones shall be available from the Town’s GIS Department online through the Town’s website, or in print form upon request.

2. ~~Open Enrollment~~ Requesting assignment to a school outside the student school/buffer zone

A student or their family/caregiver(s) may request assignment to a specific elementary school even if they do not reside in a school or buffer zone associated with that school. The decision to grant the request is subject to the following considerations:

1. The class size in the school district of the applicant, and that in the school being requested;
2. The overall crowding conditions and staff/pupil loads in the school district of the applicant and that in the school being requested;
3. The parents’ reason for the request;
4. The educational well-being of the student, including the opinions of the Principals of both schools

and other staff members.

~~These considerations -which-~~ are designed to support the class size policies of the Public Schools of Brookline, to ensure even utilization of individual building resources and staff throughout the system, and to protect the educational well-being of the students. If ~~an assignment transfer~~ is approved ~~for~~ one ~~student/child in a family~~, there ~~can be~~ no guarantee that a sibling will be granted similar approval.

~~32. Out of District Transfer Requests~~ Assignment Authority

The Superintendent of Schools, based on a recommendation from the ~~Office of Student Affairs~~ Department of Data and Information Systems in the Office of Administration and Finance, which manages student enrollment, shall have the sole responsibility of deciding ~~out of district transfer requests and the assignment of new families residing in buffer zones (see below); school assignments in accordance with School Committee policy.~~

4. Temporary Relocation of Students and/or Classrooms: (Voted 2/14/13, #13-13)

In response to extraordinary circumstances, including, but not limited to, space constraints from high enrollment or capital renovation/construction, the Superintendent of Schools may, at his or her discretion, in consultation with the School Committee, temporarily relocate a classroom or classrooms of students in grades K-12 to spaces outside of the school to which they are assigned. Such temporary relocation may be sited in rental space or other buildings within the PSB or Town, including other elementary schools. Any such relocation shall be temporary, shall terminate when the need for such relocation ends, and shall not exceed 2 years without a vote of the School Committee on or before March 15th of the second year of implementation. Students relocated under this provision shall retain their original school assignment status for all other purposes including, but not limited to, matriculation and calculations of school enrollment.

One-Year Pilot:

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5: Request to Remain

[Section 5 of the Assignment of Students to Schools Policy is proposed as a pilot for a term of one year. At the end of the pilot period, the School Committee will review the effect of the policy, especially with regard to the impact, if any, on class sizes. At a future date of its choosing, the School Committee may revise Section 5, renew the pilot, or adopt the pilot as a permanent change to Section J 1 f.]

Students whose residence within the Town changes, such that they are no longer within the associated school zone or an associated buffer zone, shall notify the Office of Registration and Enrollment (ORE) of their new address. At that time, they will inform ORE of their request to remain at their current school. The request to remain shall be reviewed by the Office of the Superintendent and, absent any extenuating circumstances, the request shall be permitted, and is granted until the student completes their 8th grade year. A student who is granted permission to remain at their current school may be ineligible for district-provided transportation.

may be granted permission to remain at the former school upon request to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. ALTERNATIVE TO PRIOR SENTENCE: Students whose residence changes from one school zone to another within the Town may remain at the former school through the conclusion of the school year, and will be assumed to remain at that school unless they request reassignment by the August 15th before the following school year.

If permission to remain at the former school is granted, the transportation of students to school shall be the responsibility of the student's family/caregiver(s).

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