

**Alleghany County Schools**  
**SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

The Alleghany County Board of Education is committed to the principle that each child is entitled to the opportunity for a quality education regardless of the school to which the student is assigned. All schools should provide equitable opportunities for learning measured by the quality of its facilities, the quality and the variety of its programs, its pupil-teacher ratios, the experience of its faculty, and the quality and availability of its technology and instructional equipment.

**CRITERIA FOR STUDENT ASSIGNMENT**

1. Efficient Utilization of Facilities. The criteria for student assignment will include efficient utilization of facilities, efficient operation of buses, continuity of attendance lines, continuity of neighborhoods and such other factors as may be mandated by law or Board of Education policy.

The capacity of a school should be determined by the number of standard teaching spaces and the core facilities at the school, such as the cafeteria, the media center, and the administrative offices. The Board of Education may determine that redistricting or reassignment is necessary in order to fully utilize staff and facilities, to avoid overcrowding or under usage of available educational facilities, and to fulfill curriculum needs.

2. Attendance Areas. Attendance area boundaries may be changed only in accordance with standards adopted by the Board of Education and following compliance with applicable law. Public notice of these standards shall be issued prior to any change in attendance boundaries.

Prior to the opening of school in the fall of each year, the Superintendent shall determine whether or not a change in school attendance boundaries is necessary. A change in school attendance boundaries must be approved by the Board of Education following public notice of the proposed change. If a residential development crosses an established attendance boundary, the development's property owners, developers, and/or residents may petition the Board of Education for changes in attendance boundaries. Any student may request a reassignment to a school outside his or her attendance area. School and individual grade level or classroom capacity will be considered in determining whether or not to grant a request for reassignment.

3. Child Custody. The Board of Education will recognize a change of legal custody only upon receipt of an order from a court of competent jurisdiction. Unless otherwise approved by the superintendent or the Board of Education, or directed in an order from a court of competent jurisdiction, a student shall attend the school that serves the residence of the parent or other legal guardian who has legal custody of the student. The parent or other legal custodian is responsible for the transportation to and from school of any

student who is reassigned by request to a school located outside the attendance area of his/her legal residence.

## REQUESTS FOR REASSIGNMENT

The Alleghany County Board of Education believes that in most cases a child should attend the school that serves his/her residence; however certain factors justify a change in assignment.

### 1. Exceptional Children's Program

Students who are identified as exceptional under applicable state and/or federal law may be assigned to schools outside their attendance areas in order to ensure an appropriate placement for their educational needs. The siblings of a student reassigned on the basis of exceptionality may attend upon request the school to which the exceptional child has been assigned.

### 2. Change of Residence

A student whose residence changes from one attendance area to another attendance area during the school year will be permitted to attend the school of initial assignment for the remainder of that school year. The student's parent(s) will be responsible for transportation. At the end of that school year, the student shall be assigned to the school that serves the attendance area of his/her residence.

### 3. Children of Employees

Any employee of the Alleghany County Schools may request the reassignment of his/her child(ren) to a school in the attendance area of his/her place of employment.

### 4. Homeless Students

The Superintendent will assign homeless students in a manner consistent with state and federal law and in accordance with Policy 4125, *Homeless Students*.

### 5. Discretionary Reassignment

The Superintendent may reassign a student due to such other circumstances that indicate reassignment to be necessary or appropriate to fulfill the student's educational needs. In making this determination, the Superintendent shall consider the best interest of the child, the orderly and efficient administration of the public schools, the proper administration of the school to which reassignment is requested, and the instruction, health, and safety of the students there enrolled.

6. Provisions of *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*

Students in Title I schools that fail to meet annual yearly progress (AYP) in any subgroup\* in the same subject for two consecutive school years will be given an opportunity to transfer to certain designated schools. In addition, students will be allowed to transfer when a school is determined to be “persistently dangerous” (as defined by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction) or when a student becomes the victim of a violent crime at school.

\*A subgroup is a group of 40 or more students with a common characteristic, i.e. exceptional children, free and reduced lunch, African American, Caucasian, etc. A subject is defined as math or reading.

A request for reassignment form can be obtained from the Superintendent or from any school. The form shall be delivered to the Superintendent following completion. Information to be provided on this form shall include:

- the name, the physical address, and the telephone number of the applicant;
- the name and the present physical address of the student;
- the relationship of the applicant to the student;
- the school and grade level to which the student is presently enrolled or assigned; the school to which reassignment is requested;
- the reason(s) for reassignment.

DISCRETIONARY ADMISSION FOR NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

A student whose residence is not within Alleghany County may apply for admission to the Alleghany County Schools. A nonrefundable application fee of \$100.00 per child shall be assessed.

In order to be granted discretionary admission to the Alleghany County Schools, a student must be in good standing at his/her current school in terms of academics, attendance, and behavior. In order to be considered in good standing academically, a student must be passing all of his/her current classes and must be on track to graduate on time with his/her peers. A student who has been suspended, expelled, or otherwise excluded from attendance by another school system will not be considered for acceptance unless and until he/she is eligible for readmission. If the enrollment of a nonresident student jeopardizes the teacher-student ratio or detrimentally affects the overall quality of educational opportunities in the school and/or grade, the student may be denied enrollment. Any nonresident student who is granted admission to the Alleghany County Schools is required to maintain good standing in academics, attendance, and behavior. Admission may be revoked if a student does not remain in good standing after he or she has been admitted to Alleghany County Schools.

Any nonresident student who attends a school to which he or she has not been assigned shall be withdrawn from enrollment until proper assignment has occurred in accordance with this policy.

The parent or other legal guardian of any student whose legal residence is outside Alleghany County is responsible for the student's transportation to and from any school within Alleghany County.

The admission of a nonresident student is also subject to the following requirements:

- submission of the nonresident application form obtained from the Superintendent;
- payment of the nonrefundable application fee;
- written release from the school administrative unit in which the student resides.

#### RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM ALLEGHANY COUNTY SCHOOLS

A student may request from the Alleghany County Board of Education a release to attend a school outside Alleghany County. The signature of the Superintendent or his/her designee on behalf of the Board of Education is required for release.

#### APPEAL PROCESS

N.C.G.S. §115C-369 governs the appeal of all requests for reassignment. The provisions of Policy 2050, Hearings before the Board of Education, shall apply to appeals to the Board of Education.