

## Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice

## Policy #300

### Purpose

To provide guidelines for students to access public education at neighbourhood schools, and to establish the criteria for students to access public education through Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice.

### Policy

Neighbourhood schools will generally be accessible to all school-age students in the neighbourhood, subject to enrolment capacity.

Neighbourhood schools may be accessible to school-age students outside of the neighbourhood, subject to a cross boundary school permit application process and enrolment space availability.

Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice will be available to all students in the district, subject to an application process and the enrolment space availability in the School or Program.

### General Guidelines

In accordance with the *School Act*, schools will enroll students in the following descending order or priority:

- A catchment area student who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- A student assigned by the Board to the school.
- A catchment area student.
- A non-catchment area student who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- Siblings of non-catchment area students who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- A non-catchment area student.
- A non-school district student.

### Catchment Areas

An elementary school catchment area is a specified geographic area that surrounds a school. In determining a school catchment area, consideration will be given to the walk limits specified in Board Policy, and the number of students that would be attending the elementary school. The objective will be to consider the capacity of the schools and balance the enrolment amongst most elementary schools.

Information on the school catchment areas will be provided to parents and students, with additional information and details made available on the Mission Public School District website ([www.mpsd.ca](http://www.mpsd.ca)).

The School District may amend the catchment areas as needed.

## Elementary Schools

The elementary school in each defined catchment area will be the neighbourhood school for that area. Residency in the elementary school catchment area qualifies an elementary school student to attend that school.

## Middle Schools

The Middle School catchments are determined to equitably distribute the student population between the two middle schools. Elementary schools are assigned to a Middle School catchment as follows:

Hatzic Middle School Catchment Schools	Heritage Park Middle School Catchment Schools
Albert McMahon Elementary	École Christine Morrison Elementary
Cherry Hill Elementary	Hillside Traditional Academy
Deroche Elementary	École Mission Central Elementary
Dewdney Elementary	West Heights Community School
Edwin S. Richards Elementary	Windebank Elementary
Hatzic Elementary	
Silverdale Elementary	

## Exceptions:

Students attending Edwin S. Richards 2012-2013 who live in the Windebank catchment area will have the choice to attend HPMS (Note: this clause would be obsolete in 2018-2019).

## **Cross Boundary**

The School District will consider cross boundary school permit applications for students to attend a school outside of their catchment area. Applications for a cross boundary school permit must be submitted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure, by March 31 for the following school year.

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering cross boundary school permit applications, as outlined in Administrative Procedure.

## Approval considerations

Applications for a cross boundary school permit will be considered when sufficient enrollment space is available at the cross boundary school. Applicants will be notified of the decision regarding the cross boundary school permit application on or before June 30.

Applications for students that have been displaced by the closure of a school will be given priority for a cross boundary school permit for the school year immediately following the closure.

If approved, cross boundary school permits will be for one school year only.

## School District Cross Boundary Placement

The School District may find it necessary to enroll a student in a school other than the neighbourhood school due to the availability of special programs or enrollment restrictions. While such placements shall be expected to remain for the duration of the current school year, whenever possible students will be returned to their neighbourhood school effective the start of the next school year.

### Schools of Choice

A School of Choice means a school other than the neighbourhood school that parents choose to have the child(ren) attend. The School District has two Schools of Choice. These schools are not neighbourhood schools and do not have a defined catchment area. Any student may apply to attend a School of Choice. The Schools of Choice are:

- Edwin S. Richards – Arts-Based Curriculum
- Hillside Traditional Academy – Curricular outcomes in an environment based on traditional values.

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering applications to attend a School of Choice, as outlined in Administrative Procedure.

### Programs of Choice

The School District offers Programs of Choice at four schools. Programs of Choice are a School District initiated program approved by the Board and designated to run in one or more school sites. Programs of Choice are offered in elementary schools as follows:

- French Immersion                      École Christine Morrison Elementary School
- French Immersion                      École Mission Central Elementary School

The elementary school Program of Choice catchment area is aligned with the neighbourhood catchment area for the elementary schools listed below. The catchment boundaries for the Programs of Choice will be reviewed annually to ensure that each school is being utilized to its potential for the regular programs and to ensure the dual-track schools meet the Board's expectations.

École Christine Morrison (West)	École Mission Central (East)
Cherry Hill Elementary	Albert McMahon Elementary
West Heights Community School	Deroche Elementary
Silverdale Elementary	Dewdney Elementary
	Windebank Elementary
	Hatzic Elementary

Programs of Choice offered after elementary school, are as follows:

- French Immersion                      École Heritage Park Middle School
- French Immersion                      École Mission Senior Secondary

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering applications to attend a Program of Choice, as outlined in Administrative Procedure.

**Date of Board Approval: September 2008**

**Amended:**

*Legal Reference: School Act, Section 74*

*Cross Reference:     [Transportation Services Policy #18](#)*

*[Administrative Procedures: 300-1](#)*

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