

Section:	School Administration
Title:	Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary, Schools of Choice, and Programs of Choice

Purpose

To establish guidelines for student access to public education at a neighbourhood school, a School of Choice, or a Program 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 application and enrolment space availability.

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

First Nations Governments have the right to establish a School of Choice for First Nation students living on reserve, in accordance with Bill 40.

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.

The school district will strive to keep families together when possible.

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).

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 based on the elementary school catchment, other than schools of choice which are as attended, 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	
Stave Falls Elementary	

Middle School Transportation for students from a School of Choice

Students who attend a school of choice and are assigned to a middle school different from the one designated for their home (catchment) elementary school are not eligible for busing to the middle school (See Transportation Services Policy).

Cross Boundary

The School District will consider cross boundary school applications for MPSD students to attend a school outside of their catchment area.

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering cross-boundary school applications, striving to keep families together when possible.

The School District will consider an enrolment application of a student from another school district to attend a Mission Public School if the school or school district has the capacity to accept the student. Approval will be for one year only. Applications from another school district must be reviewed and reconsidered each year.

Approval considerations

Applications to attend a cross-boundary school will be considered based on enrolment capacity at the catchment school and cross boundary school.

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

If approved, attending a cross-boundary school 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. If a family would like to remain at their non-catchment school, they will need to complete a cross-boundary request in accordance with applicable procedures.

Schools of Choice

A School of Choice means an elementary school other than the neighbourhood school that parents choose to have their 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 elementary 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.

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 as follows:

- French Immersion École Christine Morrison Elementary School
- French Immersion École Mission Central Elementary School
- French Immersion École Heritage Park Middle School
- French Immersion École Mission Senior Secondary
- Late French Immersion (if enrolment allows) 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. Students

attending the Late French Immersion program at Mission Central Elementary will continue in the French Immersion program at Heritage Park Middle School in Grades 7, 8, and 9.

A student that leaves a Program of Choice is a cross-boundary student when the Program of Choice school is not their regular catchment school. When a student leaves a Program of Choice, they may be required to revert to their catchment school or transfer to another school if space is not available in the regular program at the Program of Choice School or their regular catchment school.

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

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering applications to attend a Program of Choice.

Date of Original Board Approval: September 2008

Date Amended: January 24, 2017

October 15, 2019

December 17, 2024

Legal Reference: School Act, Section 74

Cross Reference: [Transportation Services Policy](#)

Administrative Procedures: Student Registrations, Cross Boundary Applications, School of Choice Application