

POLICY

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
(Okanagan Similkameen)**

SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS

**Reference: F-6
Revised: June 25, 2008**

SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS AND STUDENT PLACEMENT

The Board of Education wishes to provide a balance between school attendance based upon designated catchment areas and parental choice in the selection of a preferred school consistent with the *School Act*.

Generally, each student will attend the neighbourhood school within the catchment area established by the Board; but the Board may

- i. assign a student to another school due to educational reasons, including overcrowding, school closure, or
- ii. establish a district practice where a parent or guardian is given consideration to have a child attend a district school other than the neighbourhood school.

Student placement will be guided by:

- Maximizing the number of students able to attend their catchment area school in accordance with parental interests and the student's educational needs
- Supporting stability and continuity for students and families. Wherever possible siblings will be admitted to the same school, subject to the provisions of the *School Act*, space availability and the interests of the family.
- Enabling school and district staff to plan the allocation of resources in ways that will best accommodate demand and minimize change required at the beginning of a school year or semester.

REGULATION

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1. The Board of Education will make available an educational program to all persons of school age in British Columbia who enroll at a school in the district.
2. The Board may assign and reassign students to specific schools.
3. The Board may, in accordance with any terms and conditions specified by the Board, permit a person who is older than school age to attend an educational program or to enroll and receive instruction in an educational program as per the *School Act* and Ministerial Orders
4. Each school, with the exception of our You Learn.ca Centres, shall have a designated catchment area. A school with multiple programs may have program-specific catchment areas.
5. Boundary lines for catchment areas will be reviewed by the Board as required.
6. For each school year, the Superintendent or designate will establish a date by which an application to enroll a person in an educational program must be received by the Superintendent for the purposes of this policy. The Superintendent may establish different dates for different grades, educational programs, or schools, based on the categories of catchment area, non-catchment area and non-school district.
7. If the Superintendent or designate determines that space and facilities are available at the school in which the educational program is made available, a person whose application was received by the Board by the date established is entitled to be considered for enrolment in that educational program in the following descending order of priority, as established by the *School Act*.
 - 7.1 A catchment area child who, in the previous school year, attended the school at which the educational program is made available.
 - 7.2 A catchment area child.
 - 7.3 A non-catchment area child.
 - 7.4 A non-school district child.
8. A non-catchment area child and/or a non-school district child who, in the previous school year, attended the school at which the educational program is again being requested will not be granted registration if the space is required by a catchment area child.
9. If the Superintendent or designate determines that space and facilities are available at the school in which the educational program is made available, a non-school district child referred to in #8 is entitled to enroll in an educational program in priority to a school district child whose application was received by the Board after the date established for applications.

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10. If two or more persons have the same priority category, the person with the earlier established date and time will receive priority under the above process.
11. For the purposes of this policy, a person's residency is determined as of the date that application to enroll is submitted to the Superintendent or designate.
12. For students accepted to a school outside their own catchment area parents/guardians are to assume full responsibility for the transportation of the student to and from school and any related extra supervision requirements.
13. Once a transfer is granted, the student may not return to the catchment area school during that school year.
14. Parents wishing the return of their child to the previous school the following year shall make application under this policy.
15. The Board shall incur no additional costs as a result of the approval of any transfer application.
16. Appeals of decisions made with regard to this policy are governed by Bylaw No. 19.