

Board Information Item

Meeting Date:	October 5, 2026
Subject:	Update on Transfer Policies Focused on Resident Enrollment
Contact Person:	Paula Barbaroux, Chief Operations Officer Dr. Shiela Shiver, Chief Academic Officer Kelly Mires, Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Kalee McMullen, Executive Director of Instructional Leadership Dr. Tiffany Cunningham, Director of Student Services
Policy/Code:	FDB(LOCAL), Intradistrict Transfers FDA(LOCAL) Interdistrict Transfers (Resident Request to Remain)
Priority and Performance Objective:	Priority 3: Parents, Families and Community Satisfaction and Engagement Objective 3.1: Parents and Families Satisfaction and Engagement Priority 4: Strong Financial Stewardship and Internal System Efficiency Objective 4.1: Transparent Financial Stewardship Objective 4.2: Effective and Efficient District Operations
Summary:	The Board charged the administration with bringing forward policy recommendations that allow more flexibility for resident families to choose the schools their children attend within GCISD. This provides both enrolled and non-enrolled resident families with a choice of schools. The proposed plan establishes a defined, early process that will provide parents considering other options with potential early notification and more predictable staffing for the District. The recommendations offer the desired options and require changes to the District's policies, regulations, and processes, as described

below. The proposed changes focus on increasing resident enrollment by enhancing parental choice.

Additionally, the administration has also been developing a strategy to strengthen GCISD enrollment by creating more opportunities for non-enrolled families living within GCISD boundaries to choose GCISD. In the face of a statewide emphasis on competitive parent choice and vouchers, the proposed strategy aims to capture, recapture, and retain resident students who may be considering other choices by also implementing virtual courses and hybrid program options. Together with the resident policy transfer changes, the goal is to stabilize district enrollment while positioning the District competitively in the educational market.

Policy Changes:

- FDB(LOCAL) Expansion for Intradistrict Parent Choice:
Update intradistrict transfer policy (FDB) to grant significantly greater parent choice for resident families (enrolled and non-enrolled).
 - Timeline: Implement changes for the 2027-2028 school year
- Data Use for Recruitment: Use data analytics to target resident families who have selected or are selecting alternative instructional settings to recapture local students.
 - Timeline: November - February
- FDA(LOCAL) K–12 "Request to Remain": Expand the non-resident transfer policy (FDA) from grades 9–12 to K–12 for resident students who relocate outside District boundaries, but remain continuously enrolled and have lived within GCISD boundaries for at least three consecutive years. Approval will require annual submission and adherence to established academic, disciplinary, and attendance criteria, supported with quarterly status notifications throughout the school year.
 - Timeline: Implement changes for the 2027-2028 school year.
- FD(LOCAL) Admissions, Expansion for Virtual Courses or Hybrid Program Options: Expand the admissions policy for resident families to be served under new 30B rules
 - Timeline: Implement changes for the 2027-2028 school year.

Administration of the Process:

The administration will provide an overview of the proposed Administrative Regulation that implements the policies and will review key process timelines.

- The transfer process requires evaluating and adhering to campus, grade-level, and staffing capacities.
- The transfer application timeline for GCISD families is outlined below:
 - January - Transfer Application Administration 1(Primary)
 - March - Transfer Application 2: residents and newly identified ASPIRE & ASPIRE siblings
 - Summer - Final Transfer Application Administration

Parallel Work/Strategy:

- Virtual Options: The administration will work to develop virtual course offerings and hybrid program options to meet evolving student preferences, align with current legislative opportunities, and remain competitive in retaining and recapturing students who may seek alternative options.

Communication Strategy:

In consideration of the proposed changes, the administration is developing a comprehensive communications plan for resident families regarding the transfer policy changes.

Marketing Plan:

Based on data and information about resident families, the administration will develop a targeted recruitment marketing plan to attract non-enrolled families by emphasizing GCISD's educational value, programs, school choice options for residents, and expanded virtual and hybrid program learning opportunities.

Attachments:

Presentation
Proposed Revisions to Policies
Proposed Administrative Regulation