

Students

School Attendance Areas

The Board of Education shall establish attendance zones to facilitate educational programs and to use existing facilities with optimum effectiveness. The Superintendent of Schools shall recommend school attendance areas in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Safety of students;
2. Student educational needs;
3. Educational programs to be housed;
4. Optimum use of existing facilities;
5. Student residential patterns;
6. Ages of students served; and
7. Racial/ethnic/economic balance.

~~Although students in an attendance area may have first choice of schools in that area, the Board of Education also accepts out-of-area requests within the following guidelines:~~

All students are required to attend the school designated for their home address based on established attendance area boundaries. The Bristol Board of Education has created these boundaries to ensure educational programming, equity, balance, and optimal use of school facilities. The granting of the out of area request will be the exception and reserved for extreme cases. Families can request students to attend out-of-attendance-area schools utilizing the outline below:

- ~~1. Where space exists, students from other attendance areas may apply for out-of-area status.~~
- ~~2. Parents of students choosing out of area attendance shall provide transportation to and from school.~~
- ~~3. Out-of-area students must maintain good attendance, citizenship and academics to remain in a school outside of their attendance area.~~
- ~~4. Students entering their area school with capped enrollment may attend another district school with transportation provided.~~

Reasons That Do Not Qualify for an Out-of-Area Transfer

The following reasons do not constitute a valid basis for an out-of-area transfer and will not, on their own or in combination, warrant approval:

- Previous attendance at the requested school

- A sibling, relative, or friend attending the requested school
- Parent/guardian work location, work hours, or childcare arrangements
- Student employment or extracurricular commitments
- Transportation or family scheduling convenience
- Athletic participation or team preference
- Preference for a particular school, program
- Preference for a change of teacher, administrator, or staff member
- Availability of space at the requested school
- A desire to remain at a school following a move or boundary change
- General preference for one school over the student's assigned school

Out-of-area transfers are intended to address documented, exceptional circumstances—not personal preference, convenience, or familiarity with a particular school. Students are expected to attend the school assigned to their residence unless the request meets the district's established criteria for an exception.

Reasons That May Be Considered

- Special Education PPT decision
- A move during second half of the year or in 5th, 8th or senior year that would cause a change in school within the district
- If a student was placed in a different school due to a capped class in their home school, the district will provide transportation to the OOA until the CAPP is lifted, parents will be allowed to apply for an out of area to remain in the school, however the student must adhere to all of the guidelines and the parents must begin transporting.
- Special circumstances to be reviewed by the Superintendent.

Requirements for OOAA Students

Good Standing Criteria

Students must maintain ALL of the following to keep their OOA privilege:

- Acceptable behavior
- Good academic standing
- Regular attendance (no excessive absences- guideline 15 or more)
- Punctual arrival (not habitually tardy)

All students who have maintained these guidelines and are currently participating in the OOA program are grandfathered in and do not need to reapply each year. However, students will automatically return to their assigned home school when transitioning between school levels, as outlined below. *Note: Failure to maintain good standing may result in the revocation of OOA status.*

School Level Transitions

Students participating in the OOA program are automatically returned to their assigned home school when transitioning between school levels:

- Elementary to Middle School: 5th-grade OOAA students return to their assigned middle school
- Middle School to High School: 8th-grade OOAA students return to their assigned high school

Transportation

Important: Parents/guardians are responsible for ALL transportation to out-of-attendance area schools. The district does not provide bus service except when required by Special Education services.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-55 Students to attend regional school.

10-226a Students of racial minorities.

10-226b Existence of racial imbalance.

10-226c Plan to correct imbalance.

10-226d Approval of plan by state board.

Policy Adopted: March 1, 1995

Policy Revised: June 6, 2001

Policy Revised: January 3, 2007