

OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

John J. Hood, Superintendent

TO: Board of Education

FROM: John J. Hood

DATE: April 14, 2025

RE: School of Choice

This is the time of year that the school of choice process for the Okemos Public Schools, as well as all other districts throughout Ingham County, is initiated. On Monday, April 28, we will discuss potential school of choice vacancies to be advertised in the Lansing State Journal and district website in mid-May. The 15-day window for accepting applications is June 1-15.

The following data was considered and guided administrations' review:

- "Move-up" enrollments (K-12)
- Feedback from parent commitments in process (K-4)
- In-district transfer requests - preliminary
- Out-of District Employee requests for enrolling children - preliminary
- Thresholds established in the In-District Transfer regulations
- Projected class sizes

Currently, estimated class sizes for grades K-4 are as follows: 1st grade = 21 current enrollment (25 class limit), 2nd grade = 23 (25), 3rd grade = 24 (27), 4th grade = 25 (29). As you are aware, we are very efficient at the middle and high schools, and class sizes in the core curricular areas are generally in the 24-29 range. The purpose of advertising at least one vacancy at each grade level is to accommodate Okemos families who have moved out of the district during the school year, as well as siblings, if possible.

Prior to Board action at the next meeting of the Board of Education, we will recommend a specific number of openings for beginner garden and/or kindergarten vacancies. Elementaries are in the process of having their kindergarten round-ups. Further, we will continue to monitor enrollments and sections, especially at the elementary level. Therefore, the listed openings may be adjusted to reflect actual enrollment information generated from in-district transfer requests, "out-of-district" employee requests, and updated family commitment information. Our recommendations will be used to "fill the gaps" in our existing program, including secondary Montessori.

After reviewing and analyzing current enrollments, the administration is recommending the following number of openings to be advertised for school of choice, recognizing this is the minimal number that must be accepted:

Beginnergarten = 2 openings

Kindergarten = 6 openings

1st grade = 6 openings

2nd grade = 10 openings

3rd grade = 2 openings

4th grade = 12 openings

5th grade = 7 openings

6th grade = 1 opening

7th grade = 2 openings

8th grade = 1 opening

9-12th grades = 2 openings per grade

Note: We will continue to monitor and confirm enrollments over the next few weeks and provide the Board an update should the recommendation change. If you have specific questions, I would be happy to follow up individually with you.