

Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: School Choice Staffing Capacity Resolution for 2025-2026

DATE: January 27, 2025

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Dr. Michael Farrell
Executive Director of Student Services

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

The Board will annually adopt a resolution containing the capacity standards based upon staffing for the District. Based upon recommendations from Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA) and a review by Fort Smith Policy Review Committee, the Board voted in December 2024 to adopt amendments Board Policy 4.5 School Choice and the 4.5F accompanying resolution. This amended resolution, updating the October 2024 resolution, contains the acceptance determination criteria identified by academic program, class, grade level, and individual school. The school is not obligated to add any teachers, other staff, or classrooms to accommodate choice applications.

The District may only deny a Standard School Choice application if the District has a lack of capacity by the District having reached the maximum student to teacher ratio in a program, class, grade level, or school building authorized by the Federal or State law; Standards; state rule; or Federal law regulation.

The listed individual schools/classes in the resolution have the staffing capacity to accept students applying on Standard School Choice Application from January 1, 2025 – May 1, 2025 based upon October 1, 2024 enrollment numbers. Applications are subject to review based on the staffing capacity and resource availability of the requested school.

Provisional acceptance shall be determined prior to July 1 with a final decision to be made by July 1 based on the district's available capacity for each academic program, class, grade level, and individual school. If a school is at or exceeds its staffing capacity, the district will identify alternative school options within the district that have available capacity. Parents/guardians and students will be provided with information about these alternative options, including the programs and resources available at each school.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends that the Board move to accept this resolution as written.

If the Board agrees, the motion would read: **Move to accept the School Capacity Resolution for the 2025-2026 school year.**