

Board Information Item

Information
Packet

Board Agenda
Information

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Action

Board Agenda
Consent

02/24/2025

Subject:

Act on Changes to Board Policy FDB(LOCAL), Intradistrict Student Transfers

Contact Person:

Dr. Holly Ray, Chief of Schools
Nicole Lyons, Executive Director of Communications
Paula Barbaroux, Chief Operations Officer

Policy/Code:

Board Policy FDB(LOCAL)

**Priority and
Performance
Objective:**

Priority 1: Student Achievement and Post Secondary Preparedness
Objective 1.1: Academic Growth and Development
Objective 1.4: Student Involvement

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:

This recommendation applies to students who live within the GCISD attendance boundaries.

The District recommends adjustments to the current transfer policies to address the number and frequency of student transfers between schools, as this has made it difficult to accurately project enrollment at each campus and grade level. This, in turn, has created challenges in forecasting staffing, and student placement

particularly at the elementary level, and avoids the need for last-minute placement and hiring in August.

The recommended changes would take effect starting in the 2025-2026 school year. The recommendation is to "freeze" (or "grandfather") students currently in grades 5-12 who are attending a campus other than their zoned school (i.e., on a transfer) to preserve their established relationships and academic programs. In addition, the recommendation is that students in K-4 who are currently at a campus other than their zoned school (i.e., on a transfer) are also "frozen" at their current campus.

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, K-4 students on a transfer will attend their zoned middle school campus starting in the sixth grade. Furthermore, the recommended changes would eliminate new transfers for students in grades K-4 other than for the elementary STEM program. This approach will allow the existing transfer system to gradually phase out over several years, while stabilizing student enrollment at each school. This change would also help elementary campuses build stronger cohesion with students and families within their designated attendance zones.

All students would retain the option to return to the campus in their attendance zone at any time.

The administration will present more details on the changes to Board Policy FDB(LOCAL) regarding intradistrict transfers and will use the attached flowchart to explain the options students will have at transition years as well as describe examples of the policy application to students who are currently on a transfer.

Below is a brief summary of the proposed policy changes.

- All currently enrolled students in 5-12 grade on a transfer for 2024-2025, will be allowed to continue attending their current school and will be allowed to apply for a transfer at their transition year(s).
- All currently enrolled students on a transfer for 2024-2025, have the option to return to the school in their attendance zone at the end of the semester.
- Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the District will not allow transfers to another school within the District except to attend the STEM program at Cannon Elementary School.
- The children of District employees may continue to apply to attend the campus where the employee is assigned or to

the appropriate grade level campus that is geographically closest to the parent's work site.

- Students will continue to apply for the ASPIRE program for gifted students at Glenhope Elementary School. Students must qualify to attend.
- Students will continue to apply to attend the virtual school (iUniversity Prep) or the Collegiate Academy at Tarrant County College District. Students must qualify to attend.

Attachments:

Current Resident Transfer Students Flowchart
Proposed Board Policy FDB(LOCAL)

Recommendation:

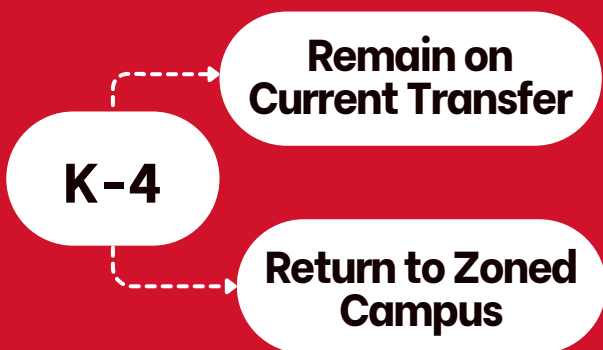
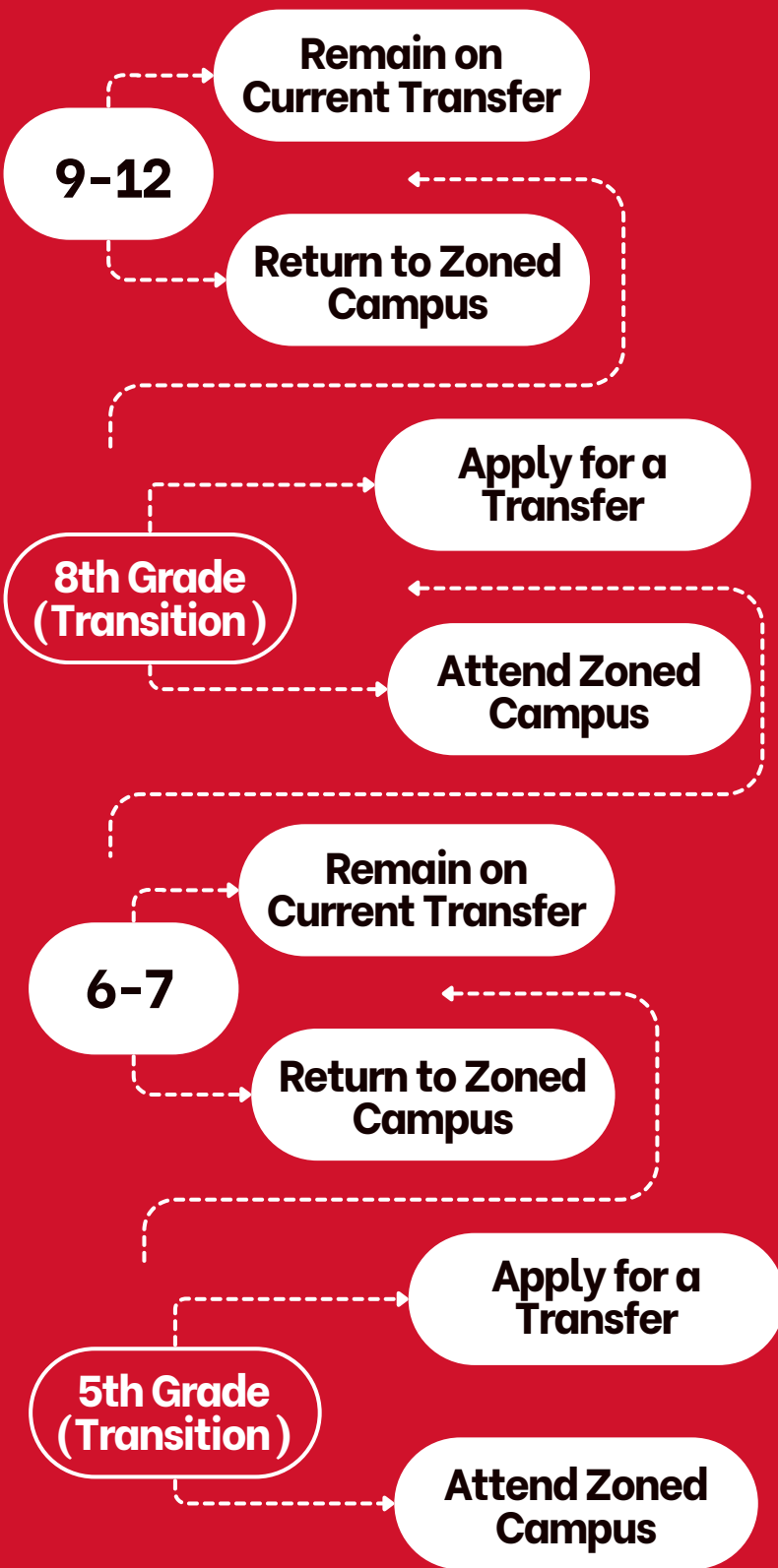
The recommendation is for the Board of Trustees to approve the changes to Board Policy FDB(LOCAL) as presented.

CURRENT RESIDENT TRANSFER STUDENTS

Only applies to resident students on a transfer for the 2024 -2025 school year

*Transfer students in grades 5-12 are grandfathered into the current transfer system at transition years; however, students are frozen at their current transfer campus in all other grades.

*Students must continue to meet transfer eligibility requirements.



*Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, students in 4th grade and below during 2024-2025 will attend their zoned middle school campus beginning in the sixth grade and thereafter.

*Elementary students may apply for a transfer to the STEM campus.

Assignments	Except as provided in this policy for a child of a District employee, the Superintendent or designee shall assign each student to a school according to his or her residential attendance zone and shall reassign a student to conform to any changes in attendance zones. When a student is reassigned, the parent shall be notified in writing.
Class Changes	The campus principal shall be authorized to investigate and approve the transfer of a student from one classroom to another on that campus.
Transfers between Schools	The Superintendent or designee shall be authorized to investigate and approve transfers between schools.
Intradistrict Transfers	<p><u>Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, District students shall attend the school in the student's assigned residential attendance zone.</u></p> <p><u>Students in grades 5-12 as of the 2024-2025 school year who are attending a campus other than the one in their attendance zone on a transfer shall be permitted to remain on the previously approved transfer for that campus until their transition year (fifth to sixth grade or eighth to ninth grade). At the transition year, students may apply to continue on a transfer to the next grade level.</u></p> <p><u>Students in grades four and below as of the 2024-2025 school year who are attending a campus other than the one in their attendance zone on a transfer shall be permitted to remain on the previously approved transfer for that campus until their transition year (fifth to sixth grade).</u></p> <p><u>Students in grades four or below, as of the 2024-2025 school year, will attend the middle school in their assigned residential zone and the schools in their assigned residential attendance zone thereafter.</u></p> <p><u>Transfer eligibility for students on a transfer as of 2024-2025:</u></p> <p><u>8th grade (Class of 2029) may apply during the 8th grade transition year only</u></p> <p><u>7th grade (Class of 2030) may apply during the 8th grade transition year only</u></p> <p><u>6th grade (Class of 2031) may apply during the 8th grade transition year only</u></p> <p><u>5th grade (Class of 2032) may apply during both the 5th grade and 8th grade transition years.</u></p>

The intradistrict campus transfer of resident District students shall be handled through an annual student transfer request process delineated in the District's associated administrative regulation.

Limitations Students may only apply for a transfer during the transition years.

If a transfer is approved, a student shall be allowed only one intradistrict campus transfer per school year; however, a student may at the end of the semester transfer to the campus in the student's attendance zone. If a student returns to their zoned campus, they are no longer eligible for future transfers.

Transportation When a student changes campuses, the student's eligibility for varsity athletic UIL competition shall be determined by UIL rules.

The parent of a student whose student is attending another campus on an intradistrict transfer shall continue to provide transportation for the student.

Revocation of Transfer Approval of an intradistrict transfer may remain in effect unless:

1. The transfer student seeks to return to the campus in the student's attendance zone.
2. The transfer student fails to abide by the laws, rules, and policies contained in the Student Code of Conduct and student handbook. If the student exhibits behavior that causes the principal or designee to take action, as specified in the Student Code of Conduct or student handbook, the principal may request that the District revoke the transfer.
3. The student ceases to be enrolled in a special course cited as the reason for the application to transfer.
4. The committee specifies a duration for the transfer when it approves the request.

Assignment of Children of District Employees A child of a District employee who resides in the District shall be assigned according to his or her attendance zone; however, a District employee may request that his or her child be assigned outside the attendance zone in which he or she resides. Subject to availability of space and instructional staff at the requested grade level and school, the child shall be assigned to the campus at which the parent is assigned or to the appropriate campus geographically closest to the parent's work site.

Space shall be considered available when the campus grade level has enrolled less than 90 percent of its enrollment projection for the coming year and when a campus has enrolled less than 90 percent of its enrollment projection for the coming school year.

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Deleted: **Request for Intradistrict Transfer during the School Year**
After the annual student transfer request process and during a school year, any parent may apply for the assignment of a student to a designated school or to a school to be designated by the Superintendent or designee. Such requests shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the District's transfer committee.
District Transfer Committee
The District transfer committee is comprised of District and campus administrators. The transfer committee shall consider criteria outlined in the associated District administrative regulation.

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Once assigned to a campus in accordance with this policy, a child of a District employee shall be permitted to continue enrollment at that campus in subsequent school years regardless of availability of space or the cost of staffing.

Regardless of grade and school, age-cohort preferences, or split feeder enrollments to the next level campus, a child of a District employee shall be permitted to request a transfer only once per year either to the parent's work site or to the campus geographically closest to the parent's work site.

Designated Programs

Resident students may apply to attend one of the District's designated programs as outlined in the District's administrative regulation. Some programs require students to qualify. The associated administrative regulation shall specify the criteria for admission.

Deleted: Students of District employees may apply for designated programs during the annual student transfer request process.

Falsifying Records

If any student, parent, or legal guardian falsifies a transfer application or enrollment information, including an address, and the student is not a District resident, the student shall be removed immediately and shall not be allowed to complete the semester in the District. In accordance with law, the District reserves the right to verify the residency of any student. [See FD]

Appeals

Decisions made by the administration in accordance with this policy may be appealed in accordance with FNG(LOCAL), beginning at Level Two. Additionally, the District shall comply with specific provisions of Texas Education Code Section 25.034 regarding a parent's right to appeal a decision made pursuant to this policy. [See FDB(LEGAL) at Board's Decision]

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Note: For the transfer of a student who is the victim of bullying or who engaged in bullying, see FDB(LEGAL). For the transfer of a student who attends a persistently dangerous school, becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense, or becomes a victim of sexual assault, see FDE.