

Director of Secondary Programs

Livonia Public Schools

Memorandum

TO: Randy Liepa
FROM: Steven Archibald
DATE: April 18, 2012
SUBJECT: School of Choice – Franklin IB Program

The schools of choice provisions in Section 105 and 105c of the State School Aid Act allow local school districts to enroll nonresident students and count them in membership without having to obtain approval from the resident district.

Mr. Willenborg and I have done a preliminary analysis of the current enrollment in our Franklin IB cohort classes and the incoming class and believe it makes sense to consider a limited number of *School of Choice* seats to retain the viability of the program. We would only recommend this under specific guidelines, which include the following:

- All LPS students have the first opportunity for seats in the program. There are currently up to 25 seats per cohort.
- We recommend establishing a limited number of potential open seats for nonresident students.
- We recommend establishing the number of available seats for nonresident students based on the number of Livonia students enrolled in the program for any particular cohort.
- We would also recommend only accepting a number of nonresident students that would allow additional LPS students to join the cohort if they wished.
- Any student outside the district who applies for the program would need to meet certain academic requirements. The first requirement would be the student submitting an application and completing an essay. In addition, the student would be required to submit their grades for review. The student would also have to show, through standardized testing, a reading level of at or above grade level.
- Nonresident students would not be able to be enrolled in the school/program after the end of the first week of the school year.
- If a student is accepted into the program and then decides to withdraw, the student will be sent back to their home high school. This has been verified with the Wayne RESA pupil accounting department.
- We would recruit students as we do our current high school students. That is, we would provide the opportunity to begin at Franklin in the ninth grade taking preparatory classes until formal IB classes begin in the eleventh grade.
- There are currently nonresident students in the IB Program under the Schools of Choice provision as approved by the Board of Education in January 2011 (2013 - one, 2015 - five).
- The total number of students currently in each cohort for the 2012-13 school year is as follows: 2013 - nine, 2014 - thirteen, 2015 - twenty-two, 2016 - eleven.
- We recommend making the following number of additional seats available for nonresident students beginning with the 2012 -13 school year (2013 - none, 2014 - ten, 2015 - one, 2016 - ten).

We believe this opportunity will allow us to maintain a viable IB program within our district. It will generate enough resources, if necessary, to cover any costs and generate additional revenue for our school district. This recommendation has the support of the principal of Franklin High School.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.