
OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
John J. Hood, Superintendent

TO: Board of Education

FROM: John J. Hood

DATE: April 20, 2023

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 24th, we will discuss potential school of choice vacancies to be advertised in the Lansing State Journal on May 21, 2023. 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

A "working" document is included for you which contains preliminary enrollment information in grades K-12. Projected class sizes for grades K-4 are detailed on the working document, and secondary grades are approximately as follows: 5th grade = 29; 6th grade = 30; 7th grade = 28; 8th grade = 28. As you are aware, we are very efficient at the high school and class sizes in the core curricular areas are generally in the 25-29 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 begindergarten 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 due to our capacity issues. 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 not result in hiring additional teaching staff, but will be used to "fill the gaps" in our existing program.

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/Kindergarten = 1 opening

1st grade = 8 openings

2nd grade = 5 openings

3rd grade = 4 openings

4th grade = 8 openings

5th - 12th grades = 1 opening per grade

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.