

# FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION

TITLE - **SCHOOL OF CHOICE\***

POLICY - **JFB**

Cross Reference - **JC/EEA**

Resolution # - 162/17

Legal Reference - P.S.A. Sections 41(5.1), 41(6), 58.3, 58.4, 58.5 and 58.9

M.R. 468/88, Sections 42(1), 42(2)

Last Reviewed - 22/06/17

## **General Responsibilities**

The School of Choice initiative is intended to facilitate parental/student choice, within limits, in selecting the public school they believe is best suited to the student's learning requirements. Only those students who qualify under "right to attend school" legislation may exercise choice. Application forms are available at public schools and the Division Office. (Form [JFB-E](#))

## **Definitions**

**Choice** - is defined as the ability of a parent or pupil to select, for attendance purposes, a school other than the catchment area school, with space and suitable program available, as the pupil's home school.

**Home School Division** - is the Division in which a pupil's parents or legal guardian(s) reside, or, if the pupil is of the age of majority, the Division in which the pupil occupies a permanent residence.

**Eligible Pupil\*** - an eligible pupil is a pupil who qualifies under the regulations of Manitoba Education for provincial support while in attendance at a public school.

**Resident Pupil** - a pupil who qualifies under section 1 of the Public Schools Act of Manitoba as a resident of Fort La Bosse School Division.

**Non-Resident Pupil** - a pupil who is eligible to attend a public school in the Province of Manitoba but who does not meet the requirements of Section 1 of the Public Schools Act of Manitoba as a resident of the Fort La Bosse School Division.

## **Canupawakpa Dakota Nation**

Pupils sponsored by any educational authority which receives primary funding from any body other than the Government of Manitoba are not considered to be eligible to access the school of choice procedures as the provisions for transfer of funds are not available to them.

Notwithstanding the limitation stated above, Fort La Bosse School Division is prepared to honour a within-Division equivalent to school of choice status for parents/students from the Canupawakpa Dakota Nation:

- subject to the terms and conditions which will apply to all school of choice applicants
- if they remain eligible for tuition support from the Canupawakpa Chief and Council (Form [JFB-E](#))

## **Responsibilities of Parents and Students**

To facilitate planning and budgeting by schools and school divisions, parents intending to send their children to a school outside their catchment area must notify both the school in their catchment area and the school of choice by May 15 for the following school year. School of choice designations will be for the beginning of the next school year. Time is of the essence when parents/students are requesting a school of choice placement.

Parents/students should understand that the program/course offering available for student selection is not the same in all Fort La Bosse schools. When considering a school of choice application parents/students should reference school handbooks and course outlines before making their decision to request a change of school. The onus of ensuring that the required courses and programs of interest to the student are available at the school of choice rests with the parent/student. The Superintendent will consider requests to transfer back to the originally designated catchment area school only as accorded under school of choice guidelines i.e. before May 15<sup>th</sup> for the next school year.

School of choice students/parents are responsible for transportation requirements. Transportation by Division school bus will be allowed provided that:

- students access the nearest school bus route at their own cost and responsibility
- no significant deviation in bus routing will be required
- there is room on that bus

## **Rights of Students**

Priority for placement in a school will be:

- a student who is a resident within the catchment area
- a student who is a resident within the Division (students with siblings attending school given priority)
- a Manitoba student from outside the Division
- other eligible students

## **Responsibility of Schools & School Division**

The School Division will notify the community of the deadline for School of Choice by placing a notice in local newspapers. The school of choice will advise student applicants of their placement status for the following school year on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Students whose placement in a school of choice is not approved by June 30<sup>th</sup> will be placed on a waiting list and accepted, if space becomes available, prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> of the same year. Once a student has exercised choice and been accepted into a school he is deemed to be a student of that school without further application being required.

### **Rights of Schools and School Division**

The school of choice may deny applications when:

- proper and timely notification is not provided
- space is unavailable
- special equipment or physical facilities required by the student are unavailable,
- an appropriate program is unavailable
- enrolling the student would be detrimental to the order, discipline and well-being of the students in the school

Additional criteria for the above considerations will be as determined by the school and directed by the School Division.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM A SCHOOL OF CHOICE**

A pupil who has been approved to attend a school of choice in the Division may choose to withdraw from that school at the end of the school year. In such a circumstance, and prior to May 15<sup>th</sup>, the parent/student must file a school of choice application for the next full school year. All the requirements of making an original school of choice application will apply to any subsequent application(s). However, the Division is not obligated to accept a request to return to the previous school and reserves the right to designate the school to which the pupil will be assigned.

Administrative Handbook - Topic S5

