

**POLICY 5.01**

**5-C** I recommend the Board approve the proposed revisions to Policy 5.01, to be entitled "Student Assignment."

[Contact: Dr. Joe Orr, 649-6822.]

**Development**

**CONSENT ITEM**

- This revision is consistent with the Board's recent approval of an updated controlled open enrollment plan, which the Board may choose to implement. It is also consistent with the existence of various choice options currently offered by the District.

**POLICY 5.01**

**STUDENT ASSIGNMENT**

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**1. General Criteria**

- a. All students in Palm Beach County schools shall be assigned annually to the school which they are to attend under the authority of the Board and by direction of the Superintendent.
- b. Students shall be assigned to schools based on the attendance boundaries which have been established by the Board in a manner which maintains a unitary school system.
- c. When attendance boundaries are changed, elementary and secondary students with one (1) year remaining in their present school will have the option of remaining at that school. This shall not automatically entitle the student to district transportation. When considering attendance boundary adjustments, the Board by its own discretion may extend this option to other students with more than one (1) year remaining.
- d. Alternative methods of student assignment, such as choice enrollment, administrative reassignments, and/or program decisions (magnet, gifted, ESE), will supersede provisions for student assignment in this policy to the extent they are inconsistent with the attendance zone criteria.

**2. Attendance Zone Criteria**

- a. When drawing attendance boundaries, the School Board, Superintendent, District staff, and the Advisory Boundary Committee must ~~annually~~ review the student capacity of each facility for reasonable efforts to achieve optimal utilization, Boundary decisions must consider in accordance with the District's concurrency policy and to the applicable portion of the executed Interlocal Agreement for Public School Concurrency recorded on January 25, 2001, ORB 12272, PG 973 for Palm Beach County, as amended from time to time, that pertains to assignment of students. A copy of this agreement is available at Board Minutes.
- b. ~~Further, when drawing attendance boundaries, the School Board, Superintendent, District staff and Advisory Boundary Committee~~ All boundary recommendations and decisions shall also consider the following criteria:
  - i. Boundaries should promote equitable student assignment as related to transportation time and distance for all racial and ethnic groups of students, as it relates to loading of school centers. The assignment should allow for proper loading of schools.

- 37 ii. Zone boundaries should be as compact as possible in order to minimize  
38 bus travel time and facilitate ~~not to dissuade/prevent~~ students from  
39 participation in extra-curricular activities. The district will ~~consider~~  
40 adhere to applicable state and federal laws, including Title 20 United  
41 States Code § 1714 and Florida Administrative Code § Chapter 6-A,  
42 when creating attendance zones.
- 43 iii. The student capacity of each facility should be considered and initial  
44 enrollments set to ensure optimal utilization, while allowing for growth  
45 wherever needed.
- 46 iv. The movement of students from current school attendance zone  
47 configurations should be minimized to the greatest extent possible, if not  
48 in conflict with other parameters.
- 49 v. The creation of "islands" or "fingers" that isolate distinctly identifiable  
50 ethnic/racial groups shall be avoided.
- 51 vi. To the maximum extent possible, a feeder system in which two (2) to  
52 (three) (3) middle schools "feed" a high school; and two (2) to four (4)  
53 elementary schools "feed" a middle school should be created. (The  
54 majority of each school's students should come from a minimum number  
55 of feeder schools). Feeder systems should be developed on projected  
56 growth patterns, the projected locations of new schools, and the possible  
57 abandonment of existing facilities.
- 58 vii. The integrity of subdivisions should be maintained. (NOTE:  
59 Developments such as *planned unit* developments (PUDs) may consist of  
60 multiple distinct subdivisions.)

61 **3. Choice Options and Controlled Open Enrollment.--** The Board recognizes that,  
62 within the parameters of applicable choice programs or controlled open enrollment  
63 plan, parents may choose to have the student attend a school other than the  
64 school that the student would attend under the regular attendance zone  
65 assignment.

66 a. Choice Programs.-- Various choice-based programs are available in this  
67 District, such as magnet schools, alternative schools, special programs,  
68 advanced placement, dual enrollment, and public charter schools, as stated in  
69 Fla. Stat. § 1002.31(2), (8).

70 b. Controlled Open Enrollment.-- "Controlled open enrollment" means "a public  
71 education delivery system that allows school districts to make student school  
72 assignments using parents' indicated preferential school choice as a  
73 significant factor." Fla. Stat. § 1002.31(1). Such system may be offered in this  
74 District, as allowed by Fla. Stat. § 1002.31(2).

75 i. Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 1002.31(2), controlled open enrollment shall be in  
76 addition to the existing choice programs that are listed in subsection  
77 (3)(a).

78 ii. Any controlled open enrollment plan offered by the District shall have  
79 prior approval of the School Board and shall include the elements  
80 required by law, such: as consideration of an application process; a  
81 parental-preference declaration process; encouragement of placing  
82 siblings in the same school; a lottery-based assignment procedure; an  
83 appeals procedure for hardship cases; procedures to maintain  
84 socioeconomic, demographic, and racial balance; availability of  
85 transportation; parental involvement; and a clearinghouse of information  
86 designed to assist parents in making informed choices, pursuant to Fla.  
87 Stat. § 1002.31(5).

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89 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §§ ~~230.22 (2)~~, 1001.41(2); 1001.42(22), Fla. Stat.

90 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 163.3180(13); ~~230.232~~ 1001.41(6); 1001.42(4)(a);  
91 1002.31, Fla. Stat.

92 HISTORY: 2/18/72; 4/06/83; 07/09/2001;    /   / 03

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Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 5.01 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

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Attorney

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Date