

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

SCHOOL CHOICE

9.950

Guiding Principles

Student admission in SD# 54 is to be guided by the following principles:

- Access to neighbourhood school: The admission process will maximize the number of students able to attend their catchment area school in accordance with parent request.
- Choice: The admission process will maximize the student's and parent's ability to choose the school and educational program which best meets the student's educational needs
- Certainty, stability, continuity: The admission process will support certainty, stability and continuity for students and families.
- Efficient resource allocation: The admission process will enable school and district staff to plan the allocation of space and instructional resources to best accommodate demand and minimize adjustments required at the beginning of the school year.
- The admission process will also consider any district transportation necessitated the application.

The board will endeavour to provide programs that meet the interests and needs of district students.

Regulations: Student Admission and School Choice

1. Definitions

- 1.1 "Catchment area child" means a person
 - (a) of school age, and
 - (b) resident in the catchment area of the school

- 1.2 "Continuing student" means a school age student in attendance at the school or a designated feeder school during the previous school year who is expected to continue in the educational program for the succeeding year, but does not include:
 - (a) a non-school district child or;
 - (b) a child who withdraws or transfers from the school or educational program before the end of the previous school year; or
 - (c) a student who attended during the previous year on a disciplinary transfer.

- 1.3 "Non-catchment area child" means a person
 - (a) of school age,
 - (b) resident in the school district and
 - (c) not resident in the catchment area of the school

- 1.4 "Non-school district child" means a person
 - (a) of school age,
 - (b) resident in British Columbia, and
 - (c) not resident in the school district.

- 1.5 "Place of residence": For purposes of this policy, a student's place of residence is deemed to be that of the student's parent, unless satisfactory evidence is produced that the student's ordinary place of residence during the school year is elsewhere.

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2. Determination of Available Space and Facilities

Section 74.1 of the *School Act* establishes priorities for enrolment to apply if the board determines that space and facilities are available in a school.

- 2.1 The board of trustees delegates to the Superintendent of Schools or his or her designate, the decisions whether space and facilities are available in individual schools and educational programs for purposes of section 74.1(6) and (7) of the School Act.
- 2.2 Decisions will be made in consultation with the principal of the affected school and will be based on program capacity, including consideration of the following factors:
 - the operating capacity of the school as defined by the Ministry of Education
 - staff assigned to a school by the district
 - the physical space in which instructional programs operate in the school
 - the ability of the school to provide appropriate educational programs for the applicant and other students
 - the needs of other programs located in the school.
- 2.3 After enrolment of continuing students, if the requisite space and facilities are determined to be available, transfer applications and applications from new students will be accepted in the following priority order:
 - catchment area child;
 - non-catchment area child;
 - non-school district child.provided application deadlines and other requirements have been met
- 2.4 If space and facilities are inadequate to accommodate all continuing students, continuing students will be re-enrolled in the following descending order of priority:
 - continuing catchment area student
 - continuing non-catchment area student
 - continuing non-school district student.
- 2.5 Waitlists, prioritized by date of application, will be established for those not accepted, to be maintained until 3:00 pm on the third Friday of September.
- 2.6 Applicants for enrolment in Kindergarten will be separately prioritized in accordance with the priorities set out in 2.3.
- 2.7 Transportation of a student outside his/her catchment area will be the responsibility of the home.

3. Tie-breaking

- 3.1 When two or more applications have the same priority, priority as between them will be determined by time and date of application.

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4. Alternate enrolment process for continuing school district students

- 4.1 Continuing students are not required to apply. They will be automatically enrolled in the applicable educational program or school, subject to space availability and to meeting program requirements, unless transferred or withdrawn. (Non-school district children are required to submit a School Transfer Application annually.)

5. Commitment

- 5.1 Applicants may apply for more than one educational program but may only be enrolled in one. When an applicant is offered and accepts enrolment in an educational program (in or out of the school district), applications for all other programs either become invalid or they are placed on a waiting list as per 2.5.

6. Discretionary Acceptance: Suspended or Expelled Non-School District Students

- 6.1 Enrolment applications from non-school district children may be refused if the child:
- (a) is under suspension from a BC public school or school district, or
 - (b) has been refused an educational program by a BC public school board under s. 85(3) of the School Act for refusing to comply with the code of conduct and other rules and policies of the board or has failed to apply himself or herself to his or her studies.
- 6.2 Such applications will be referred to the superintendent or designate for a decision on admission. Admissions may be made subject to terms and conditions. A student who has been admitted under this section are not entitled to the status of a continuing student in the following year unless approved by the school principal or superintendent's designate.

7. Communication

- 7.1 Application periods and enrolment dates will be communicated to the school communities and to the community at large and may also be communicated to other communities within and outside the school district.

8. Transportation

- 8.1 Transportation of a student outside his/her catchment area will be the responsibility of the home.

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ATTENDANCE AREAS

Houston

1. Twain Sullivan Elementary

- All students Grades K – 7 residing on the “bench” area (Mountainview and Westpoint Subdivisions)
- All students K – 7 on Hungry Hill and Houston Estates buses
- All students K – 7 on bus runs from East of Houston
- All students K – 7 on the Owen Lake bus

2. Silverthorne Elementary

- All students K – 7 residing in the town area other than Mountainview and Westpoint Subdivisions, plus all bus students, K – 7 traveling from the west except the Hungry Hill, Houston Estates and Owen Lake buses

Smithers

1. Lake Kathlyn Elementary

- All students K – 7 West on Highway 16 from Anderson Road and Scotia Avenue (Golf Course Road) including Moricetown

2. Walnut Park Elementary

- All students K – 7 residing East along Highway 16 from Manton Road, and on the Walnut Park side of the Highway to the Bulkley River bridge
- All students K – 7 living in the area East of the Bulkley River and North of Old Babine Road
- All students K – 7 residing in the trailer court on Laidlaw Road

3. Muheim Memorial Elementary

- All students K – 6 residing East along Highway 16 from Scotia Avenue (Golf Course Road) and on the Muheim side of the highway to the Bulkley bridge
- All students K – 7 residing on the Seymour Lake Road and Tatlow Road
- All students K – 7 in the triangle bounded by the Bulkley River Bridge East along Highway 16 to Good Road and the Bulkley River (this includes Laidlaw Road and Raymond Road, but not Mountainview Trailer Court
- All students K – 7 residing in the area East of Highway 16 and North of Babine Lake Road up to, but not including Old Babine Road

4. Telkwa Elementary

- All students K – 7 residing East of Donaldson Road along Highway 16 including Telkwa and continuing East to include students on Quick West Road to the top of the hill before going down to Quick Station
- All students K – 7 residing East of, but not including Babine Lake Road on the West and Round Lake Road on the East
- All students K – 7 on Round Lake Road and Woodmere Road

Amended: June 17, 2014
Adopted: March 25, 2003