
Purpose/Background

Rocky View Schools has established school attendance areas as per Board Policy 23 but recognizes the uniqueness of individual students and accepts that parental choice for student accommodation is an important factor as parents seek to find the school they believe is best able to meet their child's needs.

Procedures

Students outside the attendance area shall be considered for acceptance in accordance with the following:

1. The Principal will accept resident students living within the attendance area for that school as well as students directed to that school by the Superintendent and foreign exchange students covered by a reciprocal agreement, unless the Superintendent determines that the school cannot provide programming to meet the needs of that student. Under the *Education Act*:

Section 4(1) - A student is a resident student of the board of the school division in which the student's parent resides.

Section 4(2) - A student who is in the care of a foster parent under the Child Youth and Family Enhancement Act is deemed to be a resident student of the board of the school division in which the foster parent resides.

2. The Director of Facilities Planning will provide to the Superintendent on an annual basis the operational capacity for each school in the Division. The Superintendent or designate shall advise principals of the operational capacity of their schools.
3. Principals are to direct school operational capacity appeals to the Director of Facilities Planning.
4. If the enrollment at the school is not at operational capacity, the Principal shall review the following factors when considering accepting students from outside the attendance area for that school:
 - 4.1 The availability of space in the requested grade, personnel and resources to meet the student's needs;
 - 4.2 The projected enrollment for the school;
 - 4.3 The effect on other Division schools, if any;
5. If the enrollment at the school is not at operational capacity the priority of acceptance of students not living in the attendance area for that school will normally be considered in the following order:
 - 5.1 Resident students requiring a particular program offered at that school;
 - 5.2 Resident students continuing their program at that school;
 - 5.3 Resident students who have a sibling attending that school at the time of enrolment;
 - 5.4 Resident students changing schools as part of the up-coming group from a feeder school;
 - 5.5 Resident students within that community, if there is more than one school;
 - 5.6 Resident students from another community within the school division;

- 5.7 Non-resident students;
 - 5.8 International students.
6. If a school is at operational capacity and the Principal wishes to accept additional students from outside of his/her attendance area, approval must be obtained from the Superintendent, or designate. The following factors will apply:
- 6.1 Availability of school personnel and resources;
 - 6.2 Size and composition of classes;
 - 6.3 Future projected enrollment of the school;
 - 6.4 Effect on other Division schools.
7. If a school is at operational capacity and the child is refused admission to the school by the Principal, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may apply to the Superintendent, or designate, for special consideration. Factors considered include documented:
- 7.1 Medical
 - 7.2 Psychological
 - 7.3 Educational rationale
8. Parent(s)/guardian(s) living within RVS' boundary or non-resident students who currently attend a RVS school may appeal their child's placement to the Board as per Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters.
9. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student living outside the attendance area of a particular school are responsible for transporting their child to school.

Note 1: The student of a parent who is moving into a residence in the attendance area for a school in the Division, may be considered to be the same as a resident student for that school, if the parent is able to provide written proof (examples: a signed construction contract from a home builder with a projected date of possession, or a rental agreement accompanied by utility bills in the parent's name) to the Principal that the parent and student will move in and take possession of the residence by the mid-point of the current school year.

Reference:

Education Act Sections 4, 7, 10, 11, 21, 32, 33, 52, 53, 59, 197, 222