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Contact Person: Assistant Superintendent

POLICY 509 ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

I. PURPOSE

To set forth the application and exclusion procedures used by the District to ensure compliance with the Enrollment Options Program established by Minn. Stat. § 124D.03.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Eligibility. Applications for enrollment under the Enrollment Options (Open Enrollment) Law will be approved provided that acceptance of the application will not exceed the capacity of a program, excluding special education services; class; grade level; or school building as established by school board resolution and provided that:
1. space is available for the applicant under enrollment cap standards established by school board policy or other directive; and
 2. in considering the capacity of a grade level, the District may only limit the enrollment of nonresident students to a number not less than the lesser of: (a) one percent of the total enrollment at each grade level in the school district; or (b) the number of school district resident students at that grade level enrolled in a nonresident school district in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 124D.03.
 3. the applicant is not otherwise excluded by action of the school district because of previous conduct in another school district.

If the District limits enrollment of nonresident students pursuant to this section, the District shall report to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) by July 15 on the number of nonresident pupils denied admission due to the limitations on the enrollment of nonresident pupils.

III. BASIS FOR DECISIONS

- A. Standards that may be used for rejection of application. In addition to the provisions of Paragraph II.A., the District may refuse to allow a pupil who is expelled under Minn. Stat. § 121A.45 to enroll during the term of the expulsion if the student was expelled for:
1. possessing a dangerous weapon, including a weapon, device, instruments, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily

capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade less than two and one-half inches in length, at school or a school function;

2. possessing or using an illegal drug at school or a school function;
3. selling or soliciting the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function; or
4. committing a third-degree assault involving assaulting another and inflicting substantial bodily harm.

B. Standards that may not be used for rejection of application. The District may not use the following standards in determining whether to accept or reject an application for open enrollment:

1. previous academic achievement of a student;
2. athletic or extracurricular ability of a student;
3. disabling conditions of a student;
4. a student's proficiency in the English language;
5. the student's district of residence except where the district of residence is directly included in an enrollment options strategy included in an approved achievement and integration program; or
6. previous disciplinary proceedings involving the student. This shall not preclude the school district from proceeding with exclusion as set out in Section F. of this policy.

C. Application. The student and parent or guardian must complete and submit a School District Enrollment Options Program application developed by the Minnesota Department of Education.

The District may require a nonresident student enrolled in a program under Minnesota Statute, or in a preschool program, except for a program under Minnesota Statute, to follow the application procedures in Minnesota Statute to enroll in kindergarten. A District must allow a nonresident student enrolled in a program under Minnesota Statute to remain enrolled in the District when the student enters kindergarten without submitting annual or periodic applications, unless the district terminates the student's enrollment under Minnesota State Statute.

The District shall notify the parent or guardian in writing by February 15 or within ninety (90) days for applications submitted after January 15 in the case of achievement and integration district transfer whether the application has been

accepted or rejected. If an application is rejected, the District must state in the notification the reason for the rejection. The parent or guardian must notify the nonresident district by March 1 or within ten (10) business days whether the pupil intends to enroll in the nonresident district.

D. Lotteries. If a school district has more applications than available seats at a specific grade level, it must hold an impartial lottery following the January 15 deadline to determine which students will receive seats. Siblings of currently enrolled students, applications related to an approved integration and achievement plan, and children of the school district's staff must receive priority in the lottery. The process for the school district lottery must be established by school board policy and posted on the school district's website.

E. Exclusion

1. Administrator's initial determination. If a school district administrator knows or has reason to believe that an applicant has engaged in conduct that has subjected or could subject the applicant to expulsion or exclusion under law or school district policy, the administrator will transmit the application to the superintendent with a recommendation of whether exclusion proceedings should be initiated.
2. Superintendent's review. The superintendent may make further inquiries. If the superintendent determines that the applicant should be admitted, he or she will notify the applicant and the school board chair. If the superintendent determines that the applicant should be excluded, the superintendent will notify the applicant and determine whether the applicant wishes to continue the application process. Although an application may not be rejected based on previous disciplinary proceedings, the school district reserves the right to initiate exclusion procedures pursuant to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act as warranted on a case-by-case basis.

F. Termination of Enrollment

1. The District may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student enrolled under an enrollment options program pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 or 124D.08 at the end of a school year if the student meets the definition of a habitual truant, the student has been provided appropriate services for truancy under Minn. Ch. 260A, and the student's case has been referred to juvenile court. A "habitual truant" is a child under 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days in a school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days in a school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days in a school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school under Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 8.

2. The District may also terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student over 17 years of age if the student is absent without lawful excuse for one or more periods on 15 school days and has not lawfully withdrawn from school under Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 8.
 3. A student who has not applied for and been accepted for open enrollment pursuant to this policy and does not otherwise meet the residency requirements for enrollment may be terminated from enrollment and removed from school. Prior to removal from school, the District will send to the student's parents a written notice of the District's belief that the student is not a resident of the school district. The notice shall include the facts upon which the belief is based and notice to the parents of their opportunity to provide documentary evidence, in person or in writing, of residency to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee will make the final determination as to the residency status of the student.
- G. Notwithstanding the requirement that an application must be approved by the board of the nonresident district, a student who has been enrolled in a district, who is identified as homeless, and whose parent or legal guardian moves to another district, or who is placed in foster care in another school district, may continue to enroll in the nonresident district without the approval of the board of the nonresident district. The approval of the board of the student's resident district is not required.