

## **Sparta Area School District**

### Article 414 - School Choice/Attendance Area

Children of the Sparta Area School District will attend their neighborhood school; that is they will attend the school designated for their enrollment by the official Sparta Area School District boundary map. This policy is based upon the premise that stability is a crucial element of a child's educational and social development.

There are four general exceptions to the above policy:

1. Children that begin the school year at one school and the family moves within the Sparta Area School District, may continue at the same school for the remainder of that year.
2. Children that complete the second grade at one school may request to attend the third grade at the same school if the family lives anywhere within the Sparta Area School District.
3. Students may be assigned to a school other than their neighborhood school in order to access special services or programs that are only available at specific sites. Examples include K-3 ESL support at Lawrence Lawson Elementary, K-3 autism support at Maplewood Elementary, and K-3 CDS support at Southside Elementary. In addition, students enrolled in the Montessori Program will attend Lakeview Montessori School. New students may also be assigned to a school other than their neighborhood school in order to balance case loads for special education staff.
4. The Sparta Area School District may have its own reason to transfer students -- i.e. over enrollment and crowding, etc.

Each exception will be reviewed based on the timeliness of the request, the classroom space available and the educational needs of the individual child.

Homeless children and youth will be kept in their school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent/guardian. In addition, the District will provide or arrange transportation for homeless students including cooperating with neighboring districts when a homeless student is attending in one district and residing in another.

Every effort to assist the family and student with transportation requirements will be made by the school administration. However, transportation assistance cannot be guaranteed.

The request for a student to attend other than his/her neighborhood school will be initiated by the parent/guardian and sent to the school principal. The principal may approve/ disapprove of the request and forward it to the Superintendent for district approval/disapproval. Students living in the specified attendance areas will have priority over the exceptions listed above.

This policy will be reviewed periodically by a committee of parents, principals, and school board members.

It is the policy of the Sparta Area School District to comply with all applicable state or federal laws concerning non-discrimination and, therefore, no person may be denied admission to any public school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity on grounds that include, but are not necessarily limited to, the person's sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy or marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap

Legal Reference:       Wisconsin Statute 118.13  
                              Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972  
                              Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
                              Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Cross Reference:       Article 531 – Homeless Education Program  
                              District Form - Request for Continued Attendance in Present School

Approved:

Revised:                May 24, 2005  
                              June 26, 2018