

## **CHOICE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR IN-DISTRICT AND NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS**

Each student in the Eastmont School District is required to attend the school designated for the geographic attendance area in which he or she resides unless a choice application has been submitted and approved as described below. Choice applications will be regularly reviewed and approved or denied based upon the criteria below. A student who resides in a district that does not operate a secondary program shall be permitted to enroll in secondary school in this district in accordance with state law and regulation relating to the financial responsibility of the resident district.

### **1. Definitions**

- a) **In-District Student:** A student whose residence is located inside of the Eastmont School District Attendance area.
- b) **Non-Resident Student:** A student whose residence is outside of the Eastmont School District attendance area.
- c) **Residence:** Generally, the residence of a student is the residence of his or her parent/legal guardian(s). The residence of parent/guardian(s) is defined as the place where they eat, sleep and otherwise find their primary place of abode. In the case that the child is residing with someone other than their parent/legal guardian(s), i.e., a friend; the residency requirement will be established if the child spends five or more nights per week at that residence during the regular school calendar.

### **2. Choice Application**

- a) Parents/Guardians must complete a choice application to initiate the process and may apply for choice no more than one time per school year unless the student has recently moved to a new residence.
  - i) In-District Students: Complete the "Choice Application for In-District and Nonresident Students" form (obtained online and at the Eastmont Administration Office at 800 Eastmont Avenue, East Wenatchee) and submit to the Eastmont Administration Office.
  - ii) Non-Resident Students: Complete the choice application of your resident district and submit to the district office of your resident district. The resident district will need to first release the student in order for the student to be considered for enrollment at Eastmont.
- b) Applications for Choice for the current school year will be accepted through March 31st of each school year. No new applications for the current school year will be accepted after that date unless there is a recent change in the resident address.
- c) Requests for Choice transfer for the next school year will be accepted beginning March 1st.

### 3. Application Review

- a) Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received and will be considered under the criteria listed below. Priority will be given to children of Eastmont School District employees (per RCW 28A.225.225) and to those who have siblings attending the requested school. Approval or denial will be based on the following:
  - i) Whether acceptance of the nonresident student would result in the district experiencing significant financial hardship (“financial hardship” does not include routine programmatic costs associated with serving additional disabled or non-disabled students).
  - ii) Whether the grade level, class, and/or program at a specific school has the capacity for additional students.
  - iii) Whether appropriate educational programs or services are available to improve the student’s condition as stated in requesting release from his or her district of residence.
  - iv) Whether the student’s disciplinary records or other documentation indicate a history of violent or disruptive behavior or gang membership
  - v) Whether the student has been expelled or suspended from a public school for more than ten consecutive days, in which case the student may apply for admission under the district’s policy for readmission and reengagement of suspended or expelled students.
  - vi) Whether enrollment of a nonresident student would conflict with a district innovation academy cooperative under RCW 28A.340.080.
  - vii) If the student is applying for entrance for the sole purpose of graduating, such a student shall be required to enter at the beginning of the semester prior to commencement.

### 4. Parent Notification of Approval/Denial of Choice Applications

- a) The district shall provide a written notification of the approval or denial of the application in a timely manner:
  - i) Current School Year: within 30 days.
  - ii) Subsequent School Year: By 7 days prior to the start of school or within 30 days if submitted in August.
- b) A notice of denial shall include notice of the right to appeal following Policy 4220. Parents may also appeal directly to the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee pursuant to RCW 28A.225.230(3).

### 5. Transportation

- a) Parents/Guardians must provide their own transportation to/from school for all choice students. The District shall not provide transportation to Choice students should modification of current routes be required and result in an increase in transportation routes.

**6. Continued Enrollment as a Choice Student**

- a) Students whose choice applications have been approved will continue to be enrolled at that school for the duration of the grades served at that school as long as the criteria in section 2 “Application Review” and the following are met:
  - i) Prompt and regular attendance are maintained.
  - ii) Non-Resident Students must annually apply for choice at their resident district.
  - iii) Accurate residence address information is provided to the school district in a timely fashion. Falsification of an address, residence, or conditions of living arrangements to obtain a school assignment may be cause for revocation of a student’s choice status.
- b) Choice Revocation: If the building principal believes that the student has not maintained all of the above criteria, he/she will consult with the corresponding Executive Director of Elementary or Secondary Education. If revocation of choice is warranted and approved, the building principal will notify the parent/guardian in writing stating the reason for revocation and the final day of attendance at the school. This decision may be appealed by the Parent/Guardian per Policy 4220.
- c) Upon a grade level transition from one school to the next (i.e. Elementary School to Intermediate School), Students will be placed at the same school as the resident students of the school they are attending.