



Appoquinimink School District

THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

School Choice Policy

As per Title 14, Chapter 4, each school district is to adopt and make available, a policy or procedure to establish criteria for acceptance or rejection of school choice applications and to set priorities for acceptance.

The following procedure shall be adhered to and is necessary to control the growth in all schools within the Appoquinimink School District for choice applicants outside of the district and those requesting choice within district:

A. School Choice Application & Selection Criteria for Students Residing Within the District

- 1) Choice Applications will be accepted from October to the deadline, the 2nd Wednesday of each January, as indicated by the Department of Education, for the next school year.
- 2) Applications are to be submitted or sent to the following address, not submitted to the individual school:
Appoquinimink District Office
c/o School Choice
313 S. Fifth Street
PO Box 4010
Odessa, DE 19730-4010
- 3) All applications must be postmarked or received in person by 4:00 p.m. on the identified closing date, the second Wednesday of January. Applications must be complete with appropriate attachments, if necessary.
- 4) Applications received after the January deadline will be placed on a wait list and held for processing until July 15. At that time, a determination will be made if enough capacity exists at the desired school to grant the choice request.
- 5) Capacity will be the key factor when considering applications for choice approval. If a school is at 80% capacity, it will be closed to choice students. In addition, choice students will not be permitted to exceed 5% of the school's population.
- 6) The reason for requesting choice must be clearly indicated on the choice application. Requests based on daycare provisions will be considered.
- 7) Choice applications are reviewed and processed ANNUALLY. Anyone wishing to remain in their school of choice for the subsequent school year must submit another application by the deadline date for the following school year.
- 8) Consideration will be given for Good Cause late applications (within district only).
Good Cause for late applications may be considered for one of the following reasons:
 - Change in child's residence due to a change in family residence;
 - Change in the state in which the family residence is located;
 - Change in a child's parent marital status;
 - Change caused by a guardianship proceeding;
 - Placement of a child in foster care/adoption;
 - Participation by a child in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program;
 - Or a similar set of circumstances consistent with the definition of "Good Cause" as determined by the district.
- 9) Students and parents will be notified of the school choice decision at the end of February and the applications are processed in the order in which they are received.
- 10) Approved applicants are given 10 days to sign and return the "Invitation to Attend" form. Otherwise, the application will be revoked.

B. School Choice for High School Students

The Appoquinimink School District can only permit school choice at the high school level for students if there is an older sibling who currently attends Middletown High School. Other than the above-mentioned, there is to be no school choice between Appoquinimink and Middletown High Schools.

NOTE: This option will not be available after the 2010/2011 school year.

C. School Choice for Students Residing Outside the Appoquinimink School District

The application process is the same as above; however, the rapid and constant growth of the district continues to deter approval of applicants with residence outside of this living district.

Consideration is extended to families who can prove imminent residency to the district (i.e., signed builder's contract, lease agreement, etc.) with permanent residency prior to the end of the calendar year of said school year. Delaware residency needs to be established before the application can be adequately processed.

D. School Choice for Title I Schools classified "Under Improvement"

Based on Delaware State Testing Program (DSTP) results, a Title I school could be placed Under Improvement until they have met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years. This identification means several things for the schools. If a school has been identified as under improvement, parents/guardians with children enrolled in that school may elect to send their child(ren) to another school in the district that has not been identified as under improvement for said school year.

E. Charter Schools

All requests for admission into Charter schools must be made directly to the Charter School. Admission into a charter school is not a school choice process.

F. Application Withdrawal

A choice application may be withdrawn by written notification to the receiving district.

G. School Choice Revoked/Denied

Should a choice student have difficulty with tardiness, absences, or any unacceptable behavior as indicated in the Student Code of Conduct his/her school choice may be revoked.

If an application has been approved for choicing within the district and the family's residence later changes to outside of the Appoquinimink School District approval becomes null and void.

Should an employee living out of the district choice their child(ren) into the Appoquinimink School District, the child's school choice approval is revoked if the employee's employment status changes to termination or resignation.

Applications will be denied for students who have been expelled from another school or school district until the student is eligible for readmission.

Once a parent chooses their child out of our district, the child cannot return for a period of one school year unless it meets one of the "Good Cause" provisions as defined by the district.

H. Transportation

Unless other arrangements are made with daycare facilities, for all approved choice requests, the parents/guardians are to provide transportation to and from the choice school without infringing on the student's regular school day with frequent tardiness and/or early pickups.

I. Participation in Interscholastic Sports

Students will be governed by the rules of the DIAA with regard to athletic eligibility of transferring students. Students for whom this is a concern should check with the principal of the school(s) being considered for choice.