

## STUDENT PERSONNEL

### Series 500

#### POLICY TITLE ATTENDANCE CENTER ASSIGNMENT

No. 501.5

The board will have complete discretion to determine the boundaries for each attendance center, and to assign students to the attendance centers.

Parents or guardians of siblings in the same grade level academically in grades kindergarten through grade five may request the siblings be placed in the same or different classrooms. In order to be valid, the request must be made in writing and submitted to the school principal at the time of registration for classes, or within fourteen days after the children's first day of attendance during the school year. If a valid request is received by the school principal, the request must be honored. While a parent or guardian may make a placement request that siblings be placed together or apart, the district administration retains complete discretion to select the classroom teacher(s) to which siblings are assigned. If after the initial grading period following the placement of siblings in the same or different classrooms the school principal determines the placement is disruptive to the class, the principal may assign one or more of the siblings to different classrooms.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent/designee to make a recommendation to the board annually regarding the assigned neighborhood attendance center for each student. In making the recommendation, the superintendent will consider the geographical layout of the school district, the condition and location of the school district facilities, the location of student population, possible transportation challenges, financial condition of the school district and other factors deemed relevant by the superintendent or the board.

Elementary schools operate on a neighborhood attendance center concept. As the district continues to grow, new facilities become available and attendance boundaries will be changed. In these circumstances the new boundary will determine the neighborhood attendance center area. Efforts will be made to keep siblings together and policy guidelines for assignment will be followed. The classifications that effect neighborhood assignment are: students that live within the boundaries of an elementary school; students that live in the School District but live outside the boundary of an elementary school; students that change residence within the District; and students that open enroll into the Johnston Community School District. Attendance areas may be adjusted from time to time as determined by the Board of Directors.

#### **Students living within a neighborhood elementary boundary:**

Students living within a neighborhood attendance center boundary will be assigned to their neighborhood attendance center. When possible, siblings will be enrolled in the same school. If space is not available, the student will be placed in another school and put on a callback list to be called back to their neighborhood attendance center when space becomes available. Students who have attended the first day of fifth grade year at their assigned attendance center will not be required to return to their neighborhood attendance center, but their younger siblings will be called back to their neighborhood

attendance center when space is available. If a parent declines call back and chooses to have their child remain at the current school for the remainder of the current school year, the parent will be required to provide transportation. The child will be returned to their neighborhood school at the start of the next school year if space is available.

**Nonresident/open enrolled students:**

All nonresident elementary students shall attend the school building as assigned by the administration. Students open enrolling into the district for any reason will be assigned to a school that has available space as determined by Policy 606.6, Insufficient Classroom Space. Assignments will also change if there is a change in residence within the Johnston School District. Students currently in the district but moving to another school district who open enroll to continue in the Johnston School district may be subject to a building reassignment.

**Overcrowding:**

Without limiting the Board’s determination of available space under policy 606.6, a maximum class size of 24 students in kindergarten and 27 students for grades one through five will be considered. Class size will be determined by counting students in the general education program and integrated special needs students. Class size for kindergarten can reach 25 and grades one through five can reach 29 students with special accommodations as determined by the administration. When calculating class size and overcrowding, the administration may reserve places for growth in the class due to special considerations and programming and as a result of anticipated new resident students.

*Note: the requirement for school principals to honor valid placement requests in paragraph two is a new legal requirement effective July 1, 2019.*

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.11; 282.7-.8

Cross Reference: 501 Student Attendance

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