

ATTENDANCE AREAS

Attendance areas for the various schools of the town will be drawn up by the Superintendent and approved by the School Committee. The primary considerations that govern the establishment of a school attendance area are school capacity and transportation considerations. Generally, students will attend the school in the attendance area in which they live.

In establishing an attendance area, the following general guidelines will also be applied:

1. Use of safe walking conditions consistent with the Committee's transportation policies; where possible, major traffic thoroughfares and natural barriers will be used for boundaries.
2. Honoring community of interest; where possible, school attendance zones will incorporate community patterns.

From time to time an overcrowded condition or underutilization in an existing school, the development of new residential areas, or the opening of a new school may require the establishment or change of previously established school attendance areas.

The Committee will confer with community representatives prior to setting new attendance lines.

However, the Committee's primary basis for judgment must be equality of educational opportunity for all students rather than the personal desires of any one group.

The Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to attendance lines and/or school assignments for individual children in the best interests of the student and/or the school. The Superintendent may exercise this authority for any of the following purposes:

- Manage disparities in class sizes between schools and/or prevent or alleviate a condition of classroom overcrowding.
- Preserve family integrity, where two or more children from a single family are of elementary school age and at risk of separation between schools.
- Assist families facing temporary dislocations or changes in their living situation.
- Facilitate school construction or renovation projects.
- Eradicate anomalies in transportation routes and/or prevent extraordinary pedestrian safety risks to students.
- Provide specialized services addressing specific student needs.
- Address any other situation, which the Superintendent deems to be an extenuating circumstance.

M.G.L. 71:37C; 71:37D; 71:37I; 71:37J

LEGAL REFS.: Board of Education Regulations Pertaining to Section 8 of Chapter 636 of the Acts of 1974, Regarding Magnet School Facilities and Magnet Educational Programs, adopted 2/25/75
Board of Education Regulations Pursuant to Chapter 636 of the Acts of 1974, adopted 9/10/74
Board of Education Regulations Pertaining to the Preparation of Racial Balance Plans which Involve Redistricting, adopted 4/24/73

CROSS REF.: JCA Open Enrollment
FA/FB/FBB Facilities Planning Enrollment Projections
EEA Student Transportation Services
EEAA Safe Travel Policy Walkers and Riders

Revised and approved: October 13, 2011