

***Policies
Guidelines
Highlights***

Regarding the . . .

Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District

Schools of Choice Program

*Breitung Township * Forest Park * Iron Mountain
North Dickinson * Norway-Vulcan * West Iron County*

Participating School Districts

Breitung Township School District

David Holmes, Superintendent 779-2650

Forest Park School District

**Christy Larson, Superintendent 214-4695
ext 325**

Iron Mountain Public Schools

Jerry Sardina, Superintendent 779-2600

North Dickinson County School District

Angel Inglese, Superintendent 542-9281

Norway-Vulcan Area Schools

Louis Steigerwald, Superintendent 563-9552

West Iron Public Schools

Kevin Schmutzler, Superintendent 265-9218

Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District

Jennifer Huotari, Superintendent 779-2690

A Close-up Look at the Schools of Choice Program

In an effort to provide a quality education for all students, the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District, in cooperation with its constituent districts, is offering a School of Choice program. The program allows parents and students a choice to attend any public school in Dickinson and Iron Counties, regardless of where they live. Legal residents of the two counties will be considered in this plan. Additionally, in some cases, legal residents of a school district outside of the DIISD, but contiguous to a DIISD local school district will be considered in this plan. This brochure is designed to help parents learn about the program, and the policies and procedures that have been developed to ensure student success.

Information regarding graduation requirements, application policies, athletic and transportation are included. Please call the participating districts or the DIISD for further information and to receive a copy of the School of Choice application.

What parents or guardians need to know about Schools of Choice.

The application process for the Schools of Choice program has been designed to guarantee all applicants a fair and equitable opportunity. Parents or guardians should be aware of the application timelines, length of transfers and graduation requirements. Listed below are the guidelines regarding the application process.

1. The number of transfers allowed under the Schools of Choice program will be determined by the space available in each participating district by grade level.
2. All participants in the School of Choice program are expected to attend their School of Choice for the entire school year.
3. Students who are not currently attending a public school in Dickinson or Iron Counties due to disciplinary action must demonstrate success prior to participating in the Schools of Choice program.

The choice district reserves the right to refuse enrollment to a student who has been suspended and/or expelled in his/her home district within the past two years.

4. The student does not need to reapply for admission to the same choice school each year once approved for transfer under the School of Choice program.

5. Applications for the Schools of Choice program will be available from the participating school districts and the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District and should be returned to the receiving school district. Applicants will be notified in writing as to whether they have been accepted into the program. Parents or guardians will have an opportunity to accept or reject admittance into the program.
6. Parents, guardians and students desiring to participate in the Schools of Choice program are required to meet with the building principal of the choice school to discuss school rules, curriculum, parent involvement, graduation requirement, grade placement and other school-related issues.

Since most high school and middle school class schedules are developed prior to completion of the Schools of Choice application process, students requesting transfers to another school district should be aware that not all class requests may be granted. Prior to submitting a Schools of Choice application, it is required that the student and his/her parent or guardians meet with the district superintendent or designee of the School of Choice to determine class availability.

7. Applications from participating district students under an I.E.P. will not be considered if the choice district is not currently providing the services called for in the I.E.P.
8. An application form must be completed for each student wishing to participate in the Schools of Choice program. There are no guarantees of any siblings receiving admission into the Schools of Choice program.

9. If there are more requests for admission to a district than space available, a lottery will be held to determine which applicants will be accepted for transfer to that school. The lottery will be coordinated by the Schools of Choice application committee.

10. A student and his/her parent or guardian may wish to appeal the decision regarding the application for transfer. Such an appeal may be filed only for arbitrary or capricious violation of the Schools of Choice policy and must be filed with the DIISD within thirty (30) calendar days of notification. The parents, guardians or student must explain the reasons for the appeal in writing. The appeal will be reviewed by a committee consisting of one representative from the home school, one from the choice school and one from the DIISD. The student, parents or guardians will be notified of the scheduled meeting. This appeal review will take place within ten (10) days of DIISD receipt of the appeal.

11. A local school district within the DIISD may accept applications of nonresident students for enrollment, who reside outside of the DIISD in a district that is contiguous to their school district. Parents, guardians and students desiring to participate in this option should contact the local district to determine if the district is participating in this option (State School Aid Act, Section 105C, Public Act 119 of 1999).

Graduation/Promotion Requirements and Curriculum Issues

Each school district in Dickinson and Iron Counties has developed a curriculum that is based on the State of Michigan Core Curriculum Model. In addition, each district has its own locally approved grading system and graduation requirements. While there are some similarities in requirements among districts, parents or guardians should be aware of the following conditions of the Schools of Choice program.

1. Participants are required to graduate with the number of credits determined by the district they are attending at the time of graduation.
2. Before a student transfer actually takes place, parents or guardians and the student will be required to meet with the superintendent or designee of the choice district to review all rules, regulations, grading system and graduation requirements.
3. All districts will supply, at the request of the parent or guardian, a current listing of graduation requirements for the high school they wish to have their child attend. To receive a copy of graduation requirements, parents or guardians should contact the principal of the high school of choice.

Transportation Guidelines

Transportation is a key issue in the Schools of Choice program. It is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian to transport their children to and from the choice school. The following is a list of the transportation guidelines for the Schools of Choice program:

1. Parents or guardians will be responsible for transporting students to and from school in the School of Choice program.
2. Parents or guardians may have the option to drive their child to a pre-approved bus stop in the school district of choice, if space is available on the bus. Once the child is transported from the school to the bus stop, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to provide transportation home for the child. Parents or guardians should also be aware that on those rare occasions when school closes early due to weather, it is also their responsibility to provide transportation home for the child.
3. Parents or guardians will assume the responsibility for the safety of the child at the bus stop.
4. Students participating in the Schools of Choice program, who are eligible to ride the bus, are required to follow rules, regulations and the bus discipline policy of the choice district.
5. Schools of Choice participants will be expected to arrive at the choice school on time every day.

Athletic Policy

The focus of the Schools of Choice program is based on academics, not athletics. Therefore, students and parents or guardians should be aware of the following conditions for transferring.

Students will follow the choice district's policies of participation in the school's athletic activities.

A student athlete (junior high/middle school or high school) participating in a Schools of Choice program is eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest according to the rules and regulations as defined and governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) at mhsaa.com.

The Boards of Education of the participating School Districts comply with all federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the United States Department of Education and the Michigan State Department of Education.

It is also the policy of the participating Boards of Education that no person on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, limited English, or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program, employment practice, or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the United States Department of Education or the Michigan State Department of Education.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.