

School of Choice (SOC) FAQs

Although the Board of Education has endorsed a neighborhood school concept based upon structured attendance areas, it recognizes that students residing outside the District may desire to enroll in District schools and programs and that resident students may desire to attend a school or participate in a school program located in an area other than that of their assigned school. In conformity with policy JCA/JFBB, parents/guardians of nonresident students may apply for enrollment of their children in a District school or school program and parents/guardians of resident students may apply for their children to attend a school or school program outside their assigned attendance area if such application is made during the application window known as School of Choice. Resident students must register in the school serving their attendance area even though a request is pending for School of Choice or transfer to another school. Nonresidents of the District must register in the school they seek to attend once they are accepted through the School of Choice process.

Which school is my homeschool or school of residence?

- Type your address in the [school locator](#) to determine the three schools associated with your address (elementary, middle and high).

When should someone apply for School of Choice:

- SOC is open for a two week period of time in 3rd quarter, and acceptance is valid for the following school year.
- Dates for this process will be posted on the district website, shared with media outlets and on district social media pages prior to the start of the SOC process. Information will be made available to families already enrolled in the district via email.

Who should apply for School of Choice?

- All families who wish to attend a school that is different from the school that is considered their home school or school of residence?

Which schools or programs are not part of the SOC process?

- **Lottery schools:** Dual Immersion Academy and New Emerson. Application deadlines and information are posted on their websites.
- **Charter schools associated with District 51:** Independence Academy, Juniper Ridge, Mesa Valley Community School. Application and registration processes are set by these schools.
- **School programs** that require an eligibility requirement are: STEM, PTech at Central high school, International Baccalaureate (IB) at Palisade high school, PTech at Grand Junction high school, Challenge Program at East middle school.

Who should not apply for SOC?

- If your child was approved previously for SOC at the same school you are applying to.

- If you are unsure if your child is approved with a transfer request instead of a school of choice application, contact your child's school. Transfer requests are valid for one year only.
- If your child lives in the attendance area of the school you are applying to.

What is different between the School of Choice and the Transfer process?

- Both application processes allow for a student to attend a different school than the one that is considered their home school or school of residence.

Transfers:

- The main difference is that a transfer only allows a student to attend a different school for the remainder of the year in which the application was approved.
- Transfers can have criteria stipulating good attendance, behavior as part of the acceptance which also means they can be revoked.
- Parents whose children are attending a school through a transfer request are encouraged to apply for School of Choice in order to continue at that same school.

School of Choice:

- Approved applications for School of Choice will grant attendance at the receiving school or program throughout the grades served by the school unless space is no longer available.