

<b>Section:</b>	<b>School Administration</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary, Schools of Choice, and Programs of Choice</b>	<b>3.1</b>

**Purpose**

To establish guidelines for student access to public education at a neighbourhood school, a School of Choice, or a Program of Choice.

**Policy**

Neighbourhood schools will generally be accessible to all school-age students in the neighbourhood, subject to enrolment capacity.

Neighbourhood schools may be accessible to school-age students outside of the neighbourhood, subject to a cross boundary school application and enrolment space availability.

Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice will be available to all students in the district, subject to an application and the enrolment space availability in the School or Program.

**General Guidelines**

In accordance with the *School Act*, schools will enroll students in the following descending order or priority:

- A catchment area student who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- A student assigned by the Board to the school.
- A catchment area student.
- A non-catchment area student who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- Siblings of non-catchment area students who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- A non-catchment area student.
- A non-school district student.

**Catchment Areas**

An elementary school catchment area is a specified geographic area that surrounds a school. In determining a school catchment area, consideration will be given to the walk limits specified in Board Policy, and the number of students that would be attending the elementary school. The objective will be to consider the capacity of the schools and balance the enrolment amongst most elementary schools.

Information on the school catchment areas will be provided to parents and students, with additional information and details made available on the Mission Public School District website ([www.mpsd.ca](http://www.mpsd.ca)).

The School District may amend the catchment areas as needed.

## Elementary Schools

The elementary school in each defined catchment area will be the neighbourhood school for that area. Residency in the elementary school catchment area qualifies an elementary school student to attend that school.

## Middle Schools

The Middle School catchments are determined to equitably distribute the student population between the two middle schools. Elementary schools are assigned to a Middle School catchment based on the elementary school catchment, other than schools of choice which are as attended, as follows:

Hatzic Middle School Catchment Schools	Heritage Park Middle School Catchment Schools
Albert McMahon Elementary	École Christine Morrison Elementary
Cherry Hill Elementary	Hillside Traditional Academy
Deroche Elementary	École Mission Central Elementary
Dewdney Elementary	West Heights Community School
Edwin S. Richards Elementary	Windebank Elementary
Hatzic Elementary	
Silverdale Elementary	
Stave Falls Elementary	

## **Cross Boundary**

The School District will consider cross boundary school applications for students to attend a school outside of their catchment area.

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering cross boundary school applications.

## Approval considerations

Applications to attend a cross boundary school will be considered when sufficient enrollment space is available at the cross boundary school.

Applications for students that have been displaced by the closure of a school will be given priority for a cross boundary school application for the school year immediately following the closure.

If approved, attending a cross boundary school will be for one school year only.

## School District Cross Boundary Placement

The School District may find it necessary to enroll a student in a school other than the neighbourhood school due to the availability of special programs or enrollment restrictions. While such placements shall be expected to remain for the duration of the current school year, whenever possible students will be returned to their neighbourhood school effective the start of the next school year.

## **Schools of Choice**

A School of Choice means an elementary school other than the neighbourhood school that parents choose to have their child(ren) attend. The School District has two Schools of Choice. These schools are not neighbourhood schools and do not have a defined catchment area. Any elementary student may apply to attend a School of Choice. The Schools of Choice are:

- Edwin S. Richards – Arts-Based Curriculum
- Hillside Traditional Academy – Curricular outcomes in an environment based on traditional values.

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering applications to attend a School of Choice.

## **Programs of Choice**

The School District offers Programs of Choice at four schools. Programs of Choice are a School District initiated program approved by the Board and designated to run in one or more school sites.

Programs of Choice are offered as follows:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| • French Immersion      | École Christine Morrison Elementary School |
| • French Immersion      | École Mission Central Elementary School    |
| • French Immersion      | École Heritage Park Middle School          |
| • French Immersion      | École Mission Senior Secondary             |
| • Intensive Core French | Windebank Elementary School                |

The elementary school Program of Choice catchment area is aligned with the neighbourhood catchment area for the elementary schools listed below. The catchment boundaries for the Programs of Choice will be reviewed annually to ensure that each school is being utilized to its potential for the regular programs and to ensure the dual-track schools meet the Board's expectations. Students attending the Intensive Core French (ICF) program at Windebank Elementary will continue in the ICF program at Heritage Park Middle School in Grades 7, 8, and 9.

École Christine Morrison (West)	École Mission Central (East)
Cherry Hill Elementary	Albert McMahon Elementary
West Heights Community School	Deroche Elementary
Silverdale Elementary	Dewdney Elementary
Stave Falls Elementary	Windebank Elementary
	Hatzic Elementary

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering applications to attend a Program of Choice.

**Date of Original Board Approval: September 2008**

**Date Amended: January 24, 2017**

**October 15, 2019**

*Legal Reference: School Act, Section 74*

*Cross Reference: [Transportation Services Policy](#)*

*Administrative Procedures: [Student Registrations](#), [Cross Boundary Applications](#), [School of Choice Application](#)*