Policy JFBB - SCHOOL CHOICE

Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District

It is the policy of this Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Inter-district Choice Law, Intra-district Choice Law and following local conditions:

1.Admission through school choice is only open to residents of Massachusetts. Additionally, a student must be a resident of Massachusetts to attend and to continue attending a receiving district through school choice.

2. When admitting students through school choice, school districts may not consider or discriminate based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, or proficiency in the English language.

3. When determining capacity for admission of school choice students by May 1st for the upcoming school year, the Superintendent or designee will specify the schools and grades in which seats are available for non-resident students.

4. School Choice applications and application timeline will be published by the school administration no later than May 1st for the preceding school year.

5. Not later than May first of every year, the school committee will submit a report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education stating

a. The capacity of each school for the following academic year.
b. The number of students expected to attend each school in the following academic year.
c. The number of additional seats therefore available to non-resident students.

6. School committees may establish terms for accepting non-resident students for admission; provided, however, that if the number of non-resident students applying for acceptance to said district exceeds the number of available seats, said school committee shall select students for admission on a random basis.

Priority for school choice admission:

a. Sibling preference
   Any sibling of a student already enrolled in the district shall receive priority for admission.
   Siblings are students who have a common parent either biologically or legally.
b. Intra-district Choice Plan
   Dennis or Yarmouth students have priority placement if there is a drawing for available seats at the elementary school in the town which they do not reside.

7. The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place during the last week of the current school year but no later than July 1st. The second will be conducted during the week immediately preceding the opening of the next school year and will be based on the possibility of unexpected additional openings.

8. Students accepted will be notified by telephone and follow-up letter and must register no later than 10 calendar days after a drawing date.

9. If an approved slot has more applicants than available spaces after the initial drawing, students not accepted will be placed on a waiting list. Applicants from the waiting list will be considered when an applicant declines or does not meet the registration review or registration deadlines. A second drawing will then occur during the week immediately preceding the opening of the next school year

10. Applications received after the initial drawing will be kept separate from the waiting list. If the waiting list is exhausted, then consideration will be given to including such applicants in the second drawing.

11. Any student who is accepted for admission under the provisions of this policy is entitled to remain in the District until graduation from high school except if there is a lack of funding of the program.

12. Prior to June 1st of every school year, if consideration is being given to withdraw from the provisions of the intra-district school choice law, a public meeting will be held to review this decision. School Committees, by statute, must vote by June 1st if opting to withdraw participation. Students who are already participating in the school choice program have the right to continue attending school in the receiving district.

Legal references:
M.G.L. 71:6; 71:6A; 76:6; 76:12; 76:12B

Approved by DYRSD School Committee on 3/17/2025