

## STUDENTS

### Student Transfers – High School

#### I. School Attendance Zones

- A. Students are required to attend school in their designated attendance zone based on their primary nighttime domicile/residence. This school is the base school.
- B. Parent/guardian may request to transfer to a school outside their attendance zone using the Transfer Request process.

#### II. Acceptable Reasons for Student/Parent Transfer Request

##### A. Specialty and Career and Technical Education Programs

- 1. A specialty or career and technical education program consists of a sequence of courses taken over the period of one's tenure at the requested school.
- 2. Students must apply within Divisionwide established deadlines and be accepted into the program.
- 3. In instances when two or more like programs exist, attendance areas will be established and communicated yearly.
- 4. If a student withdraws or is dismissed from a specialty or career and technical education program during the school year, he/she may be returned to the assigned base high school once the withdraw process is complete.
- 5. If a student withdraws or is dismissed from a specialty or career and technical education program at the conclusion of the school year, the transfer for the following school year will be rescinded and the student will be returned to their base high school.
- 6. A student who is withdrawn or dismissed from a specialty or career and technical education program, for any reason, at any time, must understand that participation in a Virginia High School League (VHSL) activity may be affected. See Regulation 640-2, "Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Programs."

- B. Parental Employment in Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS)
1. Parent/guardian must be a full-time employee.
  2. Parent/guardian may request to enroll their student at their work site, or a different level school which is immediately adjacent to their work site.
  3. Employees assigned to central locations may request to enroll their student at only those schools which are located the closest to their work site.
- C. To Leave a School that is Significantly Over Capacity to Alleviate Overcrowding
1. A parent/guardian may request a transfer from a significantly overcrowded school to a significantly under enrolled school.
  2. A list of schools to which this clause may apply will be published by January 15 each school year.
- D. Extenuating Circumstances
1. To meet the specific health needs of the student, the transfer request must include the Student Health Information form (Attachment II) completed by the appropriate medical professional.
  2. To address the specific emotional needs of the student, the transfer request must include the Student Health Information form (Attachment II) completed by the appropriate medical professional.
  3. To allow a student to transfer who has been a victim of a violent crime, supporting documentation must be submitted.
  4. To allow students to complete the school year when a family move takes place during the second semester of the school year.
  5. To allow students to transfer based upon an anticipated change in residence.
    - a. The move-in date must fall within the first 90 calendar days of the semester in which the transfer is sought.
    - b. Documentation must be provided to support this type of transfer (copy of deed, lease, contract, etc.).

6. To allow students to complete their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year in the school in which they have attended during the previous school year. This provision does not apply to students who have withdrawn from or are dismissed from a specialty or career and technical education program.
7. To allow students to complete a sequence of courses not offered at the base school only when such courses are not connected to a specialty or career and technical education program. If a student enrolls in a course which is connected to a specialty or career and technical education program, he/she would be expected to enroll in and meet the entry requirements for the program.
8. To allow students to enroll in a Junior Reserved Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program if no program exists at the student's base high school.

### III. Transfer Request Parameters

- A. Student transfers are granted for a period of one school year or the end of the current school year if a request is granted after the start of the school year.
- B. A transfer to another school is considered a privilege. A transfer may be rescinded for the current year or denied for the following year for any serious infraction of the "Code of Behavior," truancy or tardy issues, or failure to comply with the requirements of a specialty or career and technical education program.
- C. A transfer request submitted after the established deadlines for both existing and new students will be denied by the requested school principal.
- D. Transportation will be provided, on a limited basis, only to those students who are members of a specialty or career and technical education program. Transportation for those students whose transfers are granted for all other acceptable transfer reasons will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- E. The student transfer request process is only available to those students who are bona fide residents of Prince William County. Considerations for students who are non-residents can be found in Regulation 346-1, "Tuition."
- F. A student transfer without an associated change in address may affect a student's eligibility to participate in VHSL activities. Please refer to Regulation 640-2, "Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Programs," for more information.

IV. Transfer Request Process

A. Specialty and Career and Technical Education Programs

1. The parent/guardian or adult student applies to and is accepted into a specialty program.
2. The student transfer form is completed when the student commits to their selected program and submitted to the specialty or career and technical education program coordinator.
3. In subsequent years, the specialty or career and technical education program coordinator will manage the transfer process for the student. No student transfer form is completed when a student remains in the same specialty or career and technical education program for subsequent years.

B. All other Transfers

1. The parent/guardian or adult student completes the Transfer Request form (Attachment I) and submits it to the base high school principal. All required documentation should accompany the form.
2. The base high school principal signs the form and returns it to the parent/guardian or forwards it directly to the requested school.
3. The requested school principal approves or denies the transfer request.

V. Schools Closed to Transfers

- A. Each year, the appropriate Level Associate Superintendent will determine which schools are closed to transfer students for specialty and career and technical education programs. The closure may be for the entire school or a specific grade level. This decision will be communicated on the Prince William County Public Schools website and by other means by January 1 of the affected calendar year.
- B. At any time, the principal of a school that exceeds its building capacity can recommend to the Level Associate Superintendent that the school be closed to any additional transfers.

VI. Transfer Request Timeline

A. Specialty and Career and Technical Education Programs

1. Apply to the program by the published date for the requested school year.
2. Complete the Transfer Request form after accepted into the program.
3. In subsequent years, a student in a specialty or career and technical education program, if remaining in the program, will not have to complete a Transfer Request form. Rather, the school will generate a list of names of returning students for verification.

B. All Other Transfers

1. Submit the Transfer Request form to the base high school principal beginning January 2 and no later than April 30.
2. Parent/guardian will be notified of the requested school decision by May 15.

C. Students Who Move into Prince William County

1. Students may apply for a transfer for parental employment in PWCS or extenuating circumstances within 30 days of moving into Prince William County.
2. Students who move into Prince William County prior to January 1, and are requesting transfer for the subsequent school year, must meet all established deadlines for the specialty or career and technical education program application process.
3. Students who move into Prince William County after January 1, may apply to a specialty or career and technical education program for the subsequent school year within 30 days of moving into the county. Students may be admitted on a space available basis.

VII. Administrative Transfers

- A. Subject to the approval of the Deputy Superintendent, a Level Associate Superintendent has the authority to execute an administrative transfer of a student to a school other than his/her base school, or from one Prince William County Public School to another, in circumstances where such a transfer is necessary to protect the physical safety or mental health of other students, or to assure student access and participation in educational programs or school-related services. Administrative transfers are not appealable.

VIII. Transfer Request Appeal Process

- A. Appeals may be submitted in writing to the Supervisor of Secondary Counseling and Student Support Services by June 1 of the school year in which the transfer was denied by the requested school.
- B. The Supervisor of Secondary Counseling and Student Support Services will consult with the Director of Student Services and the final appeal decision will be communicated to the parent by June 30.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

This regulation and related policy shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.