

4.1.2 – School Choice Policy

The superintendent shall cause public announcements to be made over the broadcast media and in the print media at such times and in such a manner as to inform parents or guardians of students in adjoining districts of the availability of the program, the application deadline, and the requirements and procedure for nonresident students to participate in the program.

Applications will be considered in the order that they are received.

A student's application will be accepted if the following conditions are met:

1. The application is received or postmarked not later than the July 1 preceding the fall semester the applicant would begin school in the Van Buren School District;
2. The addition of the applicant does not require the Van Buren School District to add teachers, staff, or classrooms or in any way to exceed the requirements and standards established by existing law;
3. Acceptance of the application does not cause the Van Buren School District to be unable to properly service its resident pupils or would endanger the certifications of the Van Buren School District;
4. No applicant may transfer to the Van Buren School District if the percentage enrollment for the applicant's race exceeds that percentage in the applicant's resident district except in the circumstances set forth in Ark. Code Ann § 6-18-206(f)(2) and (f)(3) and 005 23 Code of Ark. Rules and Reg. 002, sections 8.01.1 and 8.01.2¹; and
5. If the applicant is currently under expulsion from another district, then the applicant may be rejected by the Van Buren School District after a hearing before the School Board.

The superintendent shall notify the parent or guardian and the applicant's resident district, in writing, of the decision to accept or reject the application within 30 days of the receipt of the application.

Students admitted under this policy shall be entitled to continued enrollment until they

¹ Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-206(f)(2)(B)(ii)(b), this will not be an issue if there is neither an over- nor under- representation of a racial group by more than 25% of the county's racial balance.

graduate or are no longer eligible for enrollment in the District's schools.

The Van Buren School District shall not be responsible for the transportation of students admitted under this policy. Transportation is the responsibility of the applicant's parents or guardians. However, the Van Buren School District may, in its discretion, enter into a written agreement with the applicant's resident district regarding transportation, provided that the costs of the transportation are borne by the applicant or the applicant's resident district.

The Van Buren School District shall accept all credits toward graduation of an applicant that were awarded by another district and shall award a diploma if the applicant meets the Van Buren School District's graduation requirements.

Any student admitted to the Van Buren School District under the provisions of this policy who chooses to return to his/her resident district during the school year voids the transfer and must reapply for school choice admission if desiring to return to the Van Buren School District.

The superintendent shall report to the Equity Assistance Center on an annual basis the race, gender, and other pertinent information needed to properly monitor compliance with the provisions of this section.

Approved by Board of Education: July 14, 2009