

4.1.2.1—Policy for Acceptance and Rejection of School Choice Nonresident Students

If a nonresident student seeks to attend school in Van Buren School District, the student's parent shall submit an application to the Van Buren School District Administration Office on the Nonresident Student Transfer Form available in the district office, postmarked no later than May 1 of the year in which the student seeks to begin the fall semester. The Van Buren School District will respond in writing no later than July 1 to notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) of whether the application has been accepted or denied.

A student's application may be denied by the Van Buren School District for any of the following reasons, as established by the Van Buren School District's Board of Directors (see attached Board Resolution form):

- Lack of capacity in a program, class, grade level, or school building, defined as 90% or more of the maximum authorized student population in a program, class, grade level, or school building; or
- A conflict between the provisions of a district's desegregation plan or court order and the provisions of the Public School Choice Act of 2015 (Act 560 of 2015; or
- The Van Buren School District has reached the maximum number of student transfers that may occur in a school year, which is capped at 3%.

A student's application may not be denied based on the student applicant's athletic or extracurricular abilities, academic achievement, English proficiency level, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or disability. An application may not be denied on the basis of previous disciplinary proceedings, except that an expulsion from another district may be considered.

Priority will be given to any applicant who has a sibling or stepsibling who resides in the same household and is already enrolled in the Van Buren School District by choice.

The Van Buren School District is not required to accept any application that would cause it to add teachers, staff, or classrooms, or in any way exceed the requirements and standards established by law.

A student may transfer by choice to one nonresident school per year under the Public School Choice Act of 2015. A student who has transferred to our School District may return to his or her resident district at any time, but may only return to our School District by re-application and re-acceptance through the School Choice transfer process, or as otherwise allowed by law. No student is allowed more than one school choice transfer per school year.

A present or future sibling of a student who continues enrollment in the school district under the Public School Choice Act of 2015 and applies for a school choice transfer may enroll in the Van Buren School District if the Van Buren School District has the capacity to accept the sibling without adding teachers, staff, or classrooms or exceeding the regulations and standards established by law.

Students who request a transfer to our School District under Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-430 (academic distress), §6-18-227 (Opportunity School Choice Act), or §6-18-812 (facilities distress) will not count against the 3% cap of our School District.

Reference: Act 560 of 2015 (to be codified).

Approved by Board of Education 05/14/13

Amended by Board of Education 04/14/15