

4.1--ADMISSION OF PUPILS

The entrance age for students will be in accordance with state law. The Van Buren School District shall be open and free through completion of the secondary program to all persons in the state between the ages of five (5), as restricted by state law, and twenty-one (21) whose parents, legal guardians, or other persons having lawful control of the person under an order of a court reside within the school district and to all persons between those ages who have been transferred to the district for education purposes.

A child must be five years of age on or before August 1 of the year in which they are seeking initial enrollment and afterwards in order to be enrolled in kindergarten.

- a. Prior to a child's admission to Van Buren Public Schools, the school district shall request the parent, guardian, or other responsible person to furnish the child's social security number and shall inform the parent, guardian, or other responsible person that, in the alternative, they may request that the school district assign the child a nine-digit number designated by the Division of Elementary & Secondary Education. Student's social security numbers will not be made available to the public.
- b. Prior to a child's admission, the parent, guardian, or responsible person shall provide the school district with one (1) of the following documents indicating the child's age:
 1. A birth certificate;
 2. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth;
 3. An attested baptismal certificate;
 4. A passport;
 5. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent or guardian;
 6. Previous school records; or
 7. A United States military identification.
- c. Prior to a child's admission to Van Buren Public Schools, the parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall indicate on school registration forms whether the child has been expelled from school in any other school district or is a party to an expulsion proceeding.

Prior to a child's admission to the Van Buren Public Schools the parent or guardian, or responsible person shall provide the school district with proof that the child meets all health requirements provided by state law.

Any six-year-old child on or before October 1 who has not completed an accredited kindergarten program prior to initial enrollment shall be evaluated by the school district to determine whether placement for the child shall be in kindergarten or first grade.

Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, who will become five (5) years old during the year in

which he or she is enrolled in kindergarten, and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request to the school district.

Uniformed Services Member's Children

For the purposes of this policy:

“Activated reserve components” means members of the reserve component of the uniformed services who have received a notice of intent to deploy or mobilize under Title 10 of the United States Code, Title 32 of the United States Code, or state mobilization to active duty.

“Active duty” means full-time duty status in the active, uniformed services of the United States, including without limitation members of The National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders under 10 U.S.C. §§ chapters 1209 and 1211 or 42 U.S.C. § 204.

“Deployment” means a period of time extending from six (6) months before a member of the uniformed services' departure from their home station on military orders through six (6) months after return to his or her home station.

"Dual status military technician" means a federal civilian employee who is:

- a. Employed under 5 U.S.C. § 3101 or 32 U.S.C. § 709(b);
- b. Required as a condition of his or her employment to maintain membership in the Selected Reserve; and
- c. Assigned to a civilian position as a technician in the organizing, administering, instructing, or training of the Selected Reserve or in the maintenance and repair of supplies or equipment issued to the Selected Reserve of the United States Armed Forces.

“Eligible child” means the children of:

- a. Active duty members of the uniformed services;
- b. Members of the active and activated reserve components of the uniformed services;
- c. Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one (1) year after medical discharge or retirement;
- d. Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death;
- e. Dual status military technicians; and
- f. Traditional members of the National Guard and reserve components of the armed forces who are relocating to the state for employment or to serve as a member of an Arkansas-based reserve component unit.

"Traditional member of the National Guard or federal reserves" means an active member of the Selected Reserve subject to mobilization and deployment for which he or she attends monthly and annual training periods.

“Transition” means the:

- a. Formal and physical process of transitioning from public school to public school; or
- b. Period of time in which a student moves from a sending district to a receiving district.

“Uniformed services” means the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps, the United

States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Services, and the state and federal reserve components of each of these bodies.

“Veteran” means an individual who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released from the uniformed services under conditions other than dishonorable.

The superintendent shall designate an individual as the District’s military education coordinator, who shall serve as the primary point of contact for an eligible child and for the eligible child’s parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the eligible child, or person standing in loco parentis. The individual the superintendent designates as the District’s military education coordinator shall have specialized knowledge regarding the educational needs of children of military families and the obstacles that children of military families face in obtaining an education.

An eligible child as defined in this policy shall:

- a. Be allowed to continue his/her enrollment at the grade level commensurate with his/her grade level he/she was in at the time of transition from his/her previous school, regardless of age;
- b. Be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level, regardless of age if the student has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in his/her previous school;
- c. Enter the District's school on the validated level from his/her previous accredited school when transferring into the District after the start of the school year;
- d. Be enrolled in courses and programs the same as or similar to the ones the student was enrolled in his/her previous school to the extent that space is available. This does not prohibit the District from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses/and/or programs;
- e. Be provided services comparable to those the student with disabilities received in his/her previous school based on his/her previous Individualized Education Program (IEP). This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
- f. Make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of an incoming student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, necessary to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
- g. Be enrolled by an individual who has been given the special power of attorney for the student's guardianship. The individual shall have the power to take all other actions requiring parental participation and/or consent;
- h. Be eligible to continue attending District schools if he/she has been placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty.

Following the receipt of advanced notice of the enrollment of an eligible student from a military family, the District shall treat the notice as a provisional enrollment and provide the student with materials regarding:

- a. Academic courses;
- b. Electives;
- c. Sports; and

- d. Other relevant information regarding the public school.

In the event that official copies of an eligible child's education records are not available at the time the eligible child is transferring, then the District shall:

- a. Pre-register and place an eligible child based on the eligible child's unofficial education records pending receipt of the eligible child's official records; and
- b. Request the eligible child's official education records from the sending district.

To facilitate a smooth transition between the student's previous coursework and the curriculum best suited to ensure educational success in the student's new school, the District may enroll an inbound transitioning eligible student in digital coursework, if available, at the request of the military family.

International Exchange Students

"Host family" means the individual or family with whom an international exchange student is placed by an international student exchange visitor placement organization under the International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organization Registration Act, § 6-18-1701 et seq..

"International exchange student" means a student who is placed with a host family by an international student exchange visitor placement organization under the International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organization Registration Act, § 6-18-1701 et seq.

Before an international exchange student may attend a District school, the District requires all international student exchange visitor placement organizations that are placing international exchange students within the District to:

- a. Be certified by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel;
- b. Provide documented proof of the international exchange student's English proficiency; and
- c. Notify the District at least three (3) weeks before the beginning of the academic semester the international exchange student plans to enroll in the District.

The District shall admit for enrollment and attendance an international exchange student who has been placed with a host family who resides within the District boundaries. The international exchange student shall attend the school in the District based on the attendance zone where the host family resides.

Upon an international exchange student's arrival, the international exchange student may be required to submit to quarantine to prevent the spread of infectious diseases as may be necessary, which shall not exceed seven (7) days unless otherwise recommended by the Arkansas Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

International exchange students are expected to follow the District handbook and student code of conduct as the District has the authority to expel a student for violations of the school district's written student discipline policies or if the international exchange student presents a danger to the District's students or employees.

Statewide assessment results achieved by an international exchange student enrolled in the District shall be included in the District's results on the statewide assessments.

The District shall provide English-language services to international exchange students as necessary.

Ref: Act 462 of 2007

Ref: Act 838 of 1991 and Act 363 of 1993

A.C.A. 6-18-201, 6-18-207, 6-18-208

History. Acts 1959, No. 139, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, § 80-1501.1; Acts 1991, No. 838, § 1; 1993, No. 363, § 1; 1995, No. 574, § 1; 2003, No. 63, § 1; 2005, No. 246, § 1.8

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