

## Attendance Boundaries

In order to facilitate the most efficient administration, organization and operation of the various schools of the district, attendance areas are designated. Students are to attend the school assigned to the residence of their parents or legal guardians.

Boundaries are designated to distribute population in the schools and assist in traffic and pedestrian safety.

It is recognized that certain conditions may warrant exceptions to the policy. Exceptions may be granted by the Superintendent or designee upon request of the parents or legal guardians of the student.

### Attendance Boundary Petition Process

Permission will be a joint decision between principals of the affected schools (importing and exporting schools) and a district level administrator or district level review committee. Decisions will be based upon the welfare of the student, the school's ability to accommodate the educational program of the student, as well as upon space availability and class size issues at the two buildings.

#### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines under which a student may attend a school outside of their scheduled attendance area.

#### II. General Statement of Policy

- A. Students in Fargo Public Schools will attend the school located in the area in which their parent/legal guardian resides.
- B. Exceptions to attendance petitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis *by the principal in accordance with a district level administrator or team*. Parents may petition the principal at a preferred school for permission to attend the school so long as they reside within the Fargo Public School District boundaries. The primary factors in considering the request will be the academic welfare of the students and building capacity/class sizes.

#### III. Procedures

##### *Elementary School*

- **Current Petition Students** – Parents of students currently attending on an approved petition may request enrollment of their child(ren) at the current school of attendance for the following school year by submitting a petition to the principal at the school requested by May 1. These current petition families will be notified no later than June 15 regarding the status of their request. Exceptions to Attendance petitions will be approved if they meet the established guidelines.
- **New Petition Requests** – Parents of students requesting a new enrollment of their student(s) at a school outside their assigned attendance area may complete and submit a petition to the principal at the school requested by August 1. These new (or late) petition families will be notified no later than August 15 regarding the status of their

request. Exceptions to Attendance petitions will be approved if they meet the established guidelines.

*Middle and High School*

- A request for a Petition/Exception to Attendance form must be completed and returned to the requested school of attendance prior to January 31. Petitions received after that date will receive secondary consideration and will be responded to on a first come first reviewed basis. Exceptions to Attendance petitions will be approved if they meet the established guidelines.

A. Guidelines for Exception to Attendance

1. Building capacity/class size will accommodate the request.
2. The student maintains acceptable attendance and behavior as determined by the building administrator.
3. The student's parents/legal guardians remain legal residents of Fargo Public Schools for the duration of his/her enrollment.
4. The student's family assumes the responsibility for transportation to and from school.
5. NOTE: A student who moves to a different attendance area during the school year may request to complete the school year at the current school.

B. Duration of Exception to Attendance

*Elementary School*

The exception privilege will remain in effect for one year unless rescinded by administrative action. It will automatically be terminated by enrollment in another public or private school.

*Middle and High School*

Once the building principal has approved the petition, the school will remain the student's home school until the student leaves or school boundaries are changed. Upon completion of attendance at a school the parents will be expected to enroll their child at the next level of education in the school where they reside.

C. North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA)

Transfer students will be eligible to participate at all levels of competition provided the student was in good standing and eligible on the official date of withdrawal from the last school attended and meets the conditions of the NDHSAA.

Students changing schools through Exception to Attendance petition will be ineligible to register and participate at the varsity level of all NDHSAA sponsored activities for a period of one (1) calendar year. Students affected by boundary adjustments from a Middle School to a corresponding High School will remain eligible. All other transfer students must meet the transfer requirements as set forth by the NDHSAA.

NDHSAA Exception to Attendance will be granted to students' grade 7-12 who have been a registered/rostered member of the team and in good standing. They must apply before the first day of school and remain at that school for the entire year.

The decision of the building principal is final.

[Elementary Petition Form](#)

[Middle School Petition Form](#)

[High School Petition Form](#)

For the secondary boundary changes in 2016-17, parents will need to use the 2016-17 Boundary Change Exception to Attendance Petition form.

[Middle & High School Petition Form – 2016-17 Boundary Change](#)

Adopted 3/9/76  
Reviewed 1/15/03  
Revised 4/21/08  
Revised 10/7/08  
Revised 12/22/09  
Revised 1/4/09  
Reviewed for clarification 12/2012  
Revised 3/2015  
Revised 7/2015