

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

Hillsdale Community Schools participates in Section 105 and 105c programs as a part of the State Aid Act. As such, the District agrees to consider non-resident students residing in Hillsdale County Intermediate School District and/or a contiguous intermediate school districts for admission under the District's Schools of Choice Program.

The number of openings for schools of choice students will be determined by optimum size for a particular program or classroom. This is the number of students that can be accommodated without significantly increasing District expenditures for staff and/or equipment. All special education are included. The guidelines for classes and programs for all non-special education programs are as follows:

K-1	22
2-5	25
6-12	28
Specialized Classes	25

Limited Number of Positions Available Application Process

- A. By the second Friday in August, the Superintendent will announce to the general public that applications will be accepted for a fifteen (15) day period. The public notice will identify at least a fifteen (15) day period for accepting applications and the place and manner for submitting applications.
- B. Parents of non-resident students from within the Hillsdale County Intermediate School District and/or contiguous districts located in another intermediate district may apply for enrollment in respective grades and/or programs during this time. Applications are to be submitted to the Superintendent.
- C. No schools of choice student will be enrolled in a program or course of study who has not met the pre-requisites established for District students and tuition students. Students will be notified of program and course pre-requisites for which enrollment is sought.
- D. After the application deadline, the District will identify schools of choice students accepted for enrollment. Parent/guardian applicants will be notified accordingly.
- E. If there are more qualified applicants than space available for a particular grade or program, the following procedure shall be used:
 - 1. Each application will be reviewed to make sure all pre-requisites and other eligibility standards associated with particular courses of study have been met by the student.
 - 2. If the application is for special education or Section 504, the IEP or 504 plan must accompany the application and be reviewed by the ISD prior to any action.

3. Students suspended from their resident district during the preceding two (2) school years and/or expelled at any time from any school will be identified. The respective principal will review the circumstances. These students will be accepted last.
 4. Siblings currently attending HCS will be identified. Those siblings are to be enrolled prior administration of the random selection process.
 5. A blind drawing of all eligible applicants will be conducted. After the available spots are filled, a waiting list will be developed by the order of the draw.
 6. Based on the results of the draw, notification will be sent to parents of all applicants. This process will be completed as soon as possible.
 7. If an applicant fails to enroll by the deadline, the first applicant on the waiting list will be notified of the opportunity to enroll.
- F. The regular enrollment procedure will be followed when enrolling a schools of choice student.
 - G. The District will not discriminate against any students with disabilities (IDEA or 504). The District is required to provide any services or adapt any facilities for a student with disabilities in accordance with his/her IEP or 504 plan.
 - H. Transportation for schools of choice students is provided only from scheduled in-District bus stops. Exceptions to this requirement may need to be made for students with disabilities.
 - I. Participation in interscholastic athletics must comply with pertinent regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. In addition, any relevant league standards regarding transfer eligibility will be followed. Students and parents are encouraged to inquire about these regulations prior to applying.
 - J. The respective principal shall make decisions concerning academic credit, assignment, and/or placement based upon completion of previous courses, credits and/or grades.
 - K. Upon notification of acceptance, parents are to furnish a written statement to the principal authorizing release of all student records.

Unlimited Number of Positions Available Application Process

- A. By the second Friday in August, the Superintendent will announce to the general public that applications will be accepted for a fifteen (15) day period. The public notice will identify at least a fifteen (15) day period for accepting applications and the place and manner for submitting applications.
- B. Not later than the end of the first week of school, the District shall notify the parent/guardian of each applicant of their enrollment status.

Applications for Enrollment in the Second Semester

If the District determines during the first semester that it has positions available for schools of choice students for enrollment in the second semester the following procedures apply.

- A. Not later than two (2) weeks before the end of the first semester, grades, schools and special programs for which enrollment in the second semester may be available shall be published. These positions shall be available to non-residents residing within the Hillsdale County Intermediate School District and/or contiguous districts located in another intermediate district.
- B. During the last two (2) weeks of the first semester, the District shall accept applications from schools of choice students for enrollment for the second semester in available grades, schools, and programs.
- C. By the beginning of the second semester, parents shall be notified as to their student's status for the 2nd semester. For accepted applicants, this notification shall include the deadline date for enrollment. The District shall use the procedures and preferences identified herein when considering applications for enrollment for the second semester.