

Frequently asked Questions:

Q. Can my child attend a school other than our neighbourhood school?

A. School District Policy # 3309 outlines that parents interested in registering their child at a different school may apply to do so by going to the preferred school and filling in an Out of Area Form. First priority for registrations is given to children who reside in the school catchment. Second priority goes to those who have siblings currently attending the school. Decisions are based on available space and resources.

Q. Where do I register if I want my child to attend an out-of-area school?

A. Parents who wish to register for Full Day Kindergarten from out of the catchment area may apply to do so by going to the preferred school. We recommend you also register at your neighbourhood school in case there is no space at the requested school.

Q. I filled out a registration form and an out-of-area request form. When will I know if my child is accepted at the school I requested?

A. Only after each school's space and resource capabilities have been reviewed by the district will new "cross boundary" transfer requests be considered. You will be notified after May 30 about whether your application has been approved.

Q. If my request to have my child attend a different school is approved, will busing be provided??

A. District policy states that "...transportation for students who receive approval for transfers will be the responsibility of the parents."

Q. I put my registration form in before another family who have already heard their child is accepted. Why haven't I been called?

A. Preference is given first to students who reside in the catchment area, then to students who have siblings currently attending, and finally to new out-of-area students who have no siblings in the school. New requests are not considered until after May 30th of each year.

Q. Doesn't The Ministry of Education say parents can register children at their School of Choice?

A. No. The BC School Act, Division 1, Section 2(2) says "a person may enroll in an educational program provided by a board of a school district and attend any school in British Columbia if:

1. the person is of school age,
2. the person is resident in British Columbia, and
3. the board providing the educational program determines that space and facilities are available for the person at the school in which the educational program is made available.

Q. This sounds different than in the past. Why have things changed?

A. District policy has not changed. School District 79 has always done its best to approve school requests from parents to have children enroll elsewhere in the district. With increased budget pressures we want parents to be aware in advance that requests will be dependent upon space and resource capabilities, as outlined in District Policy # 3309.

Q. What if my childcare provider lives in a different school catchment than our family?

A. School catchment area and registration are based on the child's home address.

Q. Who will let me know if my out of attendance area request has been approved?

A. The school you requested will contact you if your request is approved.

If at any time you change your mind and wish to attend the neighbourhood school in your catchment area, please contact BOTH schools as soon as possible to let them know.

Q. What about Gradual Entry?

A. All Elementary Schools in SD 79 have a gradual entry process for kindergarten students. Gradual entry does create a later start date in September. You will receive an appointment time for you and your child to meet with the teacher. Your child will also participate in a small group setting before starting the all day program. Specific dates for gradual entry will be sent to you in the mail.

During the meeting you and the teacher will have a chance to exchange information about school routines, health matters and your child's individual needs.

Q. Is my child ready for Full Day Kindergarten?

A. Some parents have questions or concerns about their child's readiness for a full day Kindergarten program. Please talk to the school principal about your child's individual needs.