

POLICY
STUDENTS

§8-22
(a)

ADMISSION AND ATTENDANCE

§8-22 Exceptions to School Assignment Due to Attendance Zone Adjustments

1. All students who have been reassigned to a new or existing school in an attendance zone adjustment under Policy 2-32 will be expected to attend the school to which they have been reassigned upon the opening of the new school and/or the attendance zone adjustment taking effect, except as follows:

A. Rising Seniors. Students who will be twelfth graders (aka rising seniors) at the time of the implementation of an attendance zone adjustment shall remain at their current school of assignment through graduation. It is the established tradition of the Loudoun County School Board to not open new high schools with a senior class.

B. Siblings of Rising Seniors. Students who are already attending high school with an older sibling who is a rising senior may be granted permission by the School Board to voluntarily remain at their current school of assignment (aka grandfathered) to enable them to continue attending high school with their older sibling(s) and remain at that same high school through graduation. Rising freshman siblings, however, will need to apply for and be granted special permission under School Board Policy 8-20 (School Assignment) to attend freshman year at the high school of their older sibling who is a rising senior.

C. Other Grandfathering. Students who will be in the eleventh grade (aka rising juniors), eighth grade (aka rising 8th graders), and/or fifth grade (aka rising 5th graders) may be granted permission by the School Board to voluntarily remain at their current school of assignment (aka grandfathered) in order to provide greater educational continuity for those students and/or to avoid recurring school changes for the student.

D. Early Attendance. Students reassigned to an existing school(s) may be granted permission by the School Board to voluntarily begin attendance at their reassigned school prior to the attendance zone adjustment officially taking effect in order to better balance enrollment between existing schools and provide greater educational continuity for those students.

2. The following process will be used by the School Board in taking any action related to the grandfathering students at their current school(s) of assignment (Sections A.2 on Siblings of Rising Seniors or A.3 on Other Grandfathering) or allowing students to attend an existing school to which they have been reassigned prior to the attendance zone adjustment officially taking effect (Section A.4 on Early Attendance):

(continued)

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(b)

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(continued)

A. Early Decision Pre Survey. As soon as reasonably possible following a school rezoning adjustment decision by the School Board, staff shall provide an analysis of the impact of the projected school enrollment of such grandfathering or early attendance to the School Board for possible early decision.

B. Decision Resulting from a Survey After Surveying. Alternatively, the School Board may choose to wait to make such a decision until after a survey can be conducted of the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any or all potentially grandfathered students to determine their interest in being voluntarily grandfathered or gaining early attendance to the existing school to which they have been reassigned. Surveys are typically conducted within a year prior to the opening of the new school and/or the attendance zone adjustment is due to take effect, unless related to early attendance.

C. Mandatory Survey Identification. Only those students who have been identified through the survey process and been granted permission by the School Board may be voluntarily grandfathered or gain early attendance to an existing school. Students not enrolled at the time of surveying may still be granted permission to be grandfathered under this policy if sufficient capacity is determined to be available by the school division prior to the start of the school year. Students who qualify for grandfathering or early attendance but missed the survey deadline may be granted permission by staff to be grandfathered or given early attendance at an existing school, if doing so is consistent with actions taken by the School Board. Staff decisions regarding mandatory survey identification may be appealed to the School Board following the procedures in Policy 2-20 (Appeal of Administrative Decisions).

3. Grandfathered students or those given permission for early attendance through this policy shall remain at the school to which they have been grandfathered through graduation or their completion of studies at that educational level. Such permission is contingent upon the grandfathered student being in compliance with school rules and regulations.

Any decision for the grandfathered student to voluntarily transfer to another school, excluding the school subsequently serving the student's residence, must be done by "special permission" as outlined in Policy 8-20 (School Assignment). A grandfathered student, who subsequently wants to rescind the permission granted with Policy 8-22 must make such request in writing through the Department of Planning and Legislative Services.

(continued)

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(continued)

4. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a grandfathered student or a student offered early attendance through this policy must commit to provide a means of reliable transportation for the student to and from school for the duration of the student's attendance at the grandfathered school, as transportation of the student may/may not be provided by the school division in accordance with Policy 6-21 (Student Transportation). Rising juniors who are grandfathered may be offered transportation for their junior year on a space-available basis only, if transportation is being provided for rising seniors.

5. Outside the survey process, any other student seeking to remain at a current school after being reassigned to another school or seeking to gain early attendance to a reassigned existing school following an attendance zone adjustment must do so by "special permission" as outlined in Policy 8-20 (School Assignment) or another applicable policy of the School Board.

CROSS REFERENCES: Policy [2-20](#) (Appeal of Administrative Decisions)
 Policy [2-32](#) (School Attendance Zones: Policy and Process)
 Policy [6-21](#) (Student Transportation)
 Policy [8-20](#) (School Assignment)

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