

ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

A student who resides within the boundaries of another school district in the State of Washington may apply for enrollment in the Bellingham School District provided all of the following conditions are met:

- I. An applicant can demonstrate qualification under one or more of the following criteria:
 - A. A financial, educational, safety or health condition affecting the student would likely be reasonably improved as a result of attendance in this District;
 - B. Attendance in this District is more accessible to the place of work of the student, custodial parent/guardian, or to the location of child care for the student; and/or
 - C. A special hardship or detrimental condition exists affecting the student which would be alleviated as a result of attendance in this district.
- II. Space is available as determined by the District, and/or program to accommodate the student applicant.
- III. The school which the student applicant wishes to attend offers a program which is suitable to meet the educational and other needs of the student.
- IV. The student applicant is not likely to disrupt the educational process or create a risk to the health or safety of students or staff.
- V. The student applicant is not likely to be a discipline problem and the student is not, at the time the request is made, suspended or expelled from the school in which he/she was last enrolled.

The District shall accept applications from nonresident students who are the children of full-time certificated and classified school employees, except for students who reside out-of-state. For the purpose of this policy, "full-time employees" means employees who are employed for the full number of hours and days for their job description. Those children shall be permitted to enroll:

- A. at the school to which the employee is assigned,; or
- B. at a school forming the District's K through 12 continuum which includes the school to which the employee is assigned, unless:
 1. The student's disciplinary records indicate a history of convictions for offenses or crimes, violent or disruptive behavior, or gang membership;

2. The student has been expelled or suspended from a public school for more than ten (10) consecutive days.
3. Enrollment of a child would displace a child who is a resident of the District, except that if a child is admitted, that child shall be permitted to remain enrolled at that school, or in the District's kindergarten through twelfth grade continuum until s/he has completed school.

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate procedures for the implementation of this policy.

This policy is not applicable to nonresident students enrolled in the District under any of the following programs:

- I. Non high school district students ([RCW 28A.225.210](#));
- II. Students enrolled under an interdistrict cooperation program authorized by [RCW 28A.545.040](#);
- III. Students enrolled under a reciprocity program with a contiguous out of state school district pursuant to [RCW 28A.225.200](#);
- IV. Students enrolled in programs temporarily conducted on behalf of another school district pursuant to [RCW 28A.225.200](#);
- V. Students who reside within certain federal lands or Indian reservations and attend school in a contiguous school district pursuant to [RCW 28A.225.170](#).

Legal References: [RCW 28A.225.220-320](#)
[WAC 392-137](#)
[ESSB 5142](#)

Approved: Jan. 15, 2004
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