

**Definition**

Choice Option programs provide learning opportunities that are significantly different from other traditional programs, while meeting the same standards and requirements as other schools within the district. Choice Option Programs are structured around a unique curriculum or particular instructional methodology and may be located in the same building as a neighborhood school or in a separate school. Choice Option Programs are designed to serve students from throughout the district.

**Guiding Principles**

Choice Option Programs are educational alternatives that provide learning opportunities that are significantly different from existing programs and are open to families from throughout the district who choose the specific educational methodology for their student(s). A Choice Option Program will provide equal opportunity for all nationalities, races, ethnic groups, abilities and genders within Bend-La Pine Schools.

Goals of a Choice Option Program must be congruent with the district's vision, mission, goals, and strategic plan as well as with state standards. A Choice Option Program will adhere to established district policies, procedures and assessment practices.

A Choice Option Program will generally be funded and staffed at the same levels as other district schools serving similar grade levels. The school board may choose to fund start-up or program costs at a different level based on unique needs of the program. The district shall establish enrollment capacities for each grade at the Choice Option Program each spring for the following school year, based on student-teacher ratios that are comparable to those in the other schools of the district. If more students apply for admission to a Choice Option Program than space and staffing allow, students will be selected for enrollment by a district defined lottery procedure.

**Attendance Areas**

An "attendance zone," where applicable, is defined as an area in proximity to the school where preference will be provided to resident families if they have completed the full application process for that Choice Option Program. Since each Choice Option Program has a different methodology of instruction, the families living within an "attendance zone" will need to determine that the placement is the right fit for their student.

For purposes of enrollment, the primary residence of the student must be used. Families who reside in an "attendance zone" and are selected for a Choice Option Program will be asked to provide proof of their current residential address; examples of documentation include a rental agreement, identification with matching address, or current utility bill. Proof of residential address must be provided at the time of enrollment. If it is determined that some address other than the primary residence has been used for obtaining access to a specific Choice Option Program, then all rights and privileges accorded through this administrative regulation shall be forfeited.

Parents/guardians may need to provide their own transportation as the district provides limited bus routes and transportation to Choice Option Programs.

**Choice Option Application Process**

Any student residing within the Bend-La Pine Schools' boundaries is eligible to attend a Choice Option Program. If resident students do not request all of the space available, non-resident students who have been approved for interdistrict transfer in accordance with district procedures may be enrolled (see [JECB/JECF-AP: Interdistrict Transfer of Students](#)). The district will inform the public about Choice Option Programs and timelines for application on an annual basis.

Interested families are encouraged to attend informational meetings and school tours as advertised each year.

To be considered for admission to a Choice Option Program, all individual students, must have an approved enrollment in their boundary school and submit a Choice Option Lottery application through ParentVue or complete a paper application form by the deadline established and advertised by the district.

Admission preference into a Choice Option Program will be in the following priority order:

1. Siblings of current students and incoming kindergartners living within the “attendance zone” if there is available space at their respective grade level. Recent additions to families (i.e.: step-children/adopted children) qualify as siblings under this policy. If there is not space at that grade level, the sibling or siblings will be placed at the top of the sibling waiting list.
  - Siblings of current students in 5<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grades will not have sibling preference in the lottery process. Sibling preference will only be given to those students who will attend the same Choice Option Program during the same school year.
2. Children of current Bend-La Pine Schools’ staff will be prioritized in accordance with JECBB-AR: Intradistrict Transfer Procedures and applicable Association contract language.
3. Incoming students in grades 1-5 (or 1-8, if applicable) who live within the “attendance zones” Implementation of the “attendance zone” priority will not displace students currently enrolled. If there is no space at the desired grade level, students will be placed on the waiting list.
4. Applicants that have submitted their Choice Option Program application by the application deadline will fill all of the remaining vacancies. In the event that more students apply than can be accommodated, a lottery will be conducted.

#### Realms Middle and Realms High School

For the purposes of sibling preference, Realms Middle School and Realms High School shall be considered one school.

- Current students:
  - Realms High School will reserve a maximum of 50% of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade seats for current 8<sup>th</sup> grade Realms Middle School students who submit a Choice Option Program application for Realms High School.
  - A lottery will be held if the number of applications from current 8<sup>th</sup> grade Realms Middle School students exceeds the reserved number of 9<sup>th</sup> grade seats. Students who are not selected in the lottery will be placed on the “reserved-seat waiting list.”
- Students new to Realms High School:
  - The remaining 9<sup>th</sup> grade seats at Realms High School will be available to all other students who complete the Choice Option application for Realms High.
  - A lottery will be held if there are more applications than available seats. Students who are not selected in this lottery will be placed on the “non-reserved waiting list.”
  - If there are available seats after all students are considered for the non-reserved 9<sup>th</sup> grade seats, those seats will be offered to students who are on the “reserved-seat waiting list.”
  - Should a Realms Middle School student choose to go to a different high school for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and then want to return to Realms High School, that student will no longer have preference and will be placed on the “non-reserved waiting list.”

#### Waiting List Lottery Process

Students applying for admission to a Choice Option Program after the application deadline will be placed on the waiting list in the order in which the school receives their application and in the priority order stated above. Individuals who were on any waiting list the previous year must submit a new application by the lottery application deadline.

When the number of applicants exceeds the number of vacancies, the following lottery process will be followed:

1. The names of those applicants not already enrolled are sorted by grade. Applicants who are sibling groups or live in the appropriate “attendance zone” are separated into their priority groupings.
2. When a family has several children in the lottery, if one child’s name is drawn, at that point the other siblings are enrolled if there are openings in their respective grades. If no openings are available, their names will be placed at the top of the sibling waiting list.
3. When all of the openings are filled, the applicants will remain on the waitlist for that academic school year and will be offered placement in the order received as openings occur.

Parents/guardians will be notified of lottery results.

Once the lottery is completed, and an opening occurs, the first name on the waiting list becomes eligible to fill that spot.

At any time, families interested in enrolling their children in a Choice Option Program may enter their student into the lottery for a position on an existing waitlist by completing the Choice Option Program application form.

If a student is currently enrolled in a Choice Option Program and they apply and are accepted to another Choice Option Program, they will lose the spot in the current Choice Option Program. The vacant spot can be filled with a new student from the waiting list.

#### **Exceptional Situations**

A student will be withdrawn after an absence of 10 consecutive school days (per OAR 581-023). A student will not be permitted to re-enroll at their respective Choice Option Program school after an additional 30 consecutive school days of absences. If a student wishes to reenroll at a Choice Option Program after being dropped from enrollment due to an extended absence, they must complete the Choice Option Program application process.

The district recognizes certain extenuating circumstances may cause a student to have an extended absence beyond the day limits defined above. When a student has an extended absence due to such circumstances (i.e., medical emergency), the principal will consult with the superintendent or designee to determine if that student will be readmitted to the Choice Option Program.

Parents/guardians who wish to have their student return to their attendance area school will lose their spot at a Choice Option Program and must go through the application process if they would like to reenroll in a Choice Option Program.

#### **Special Education and Public School Choice**

The district will ensure that students with disabilities are provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in their approved school of choice, consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In offering choice to students with disabilities, the district may match the abilities and needs of a student with disabilities to the possible schools that have the ability to provide the student with FAPE.

END OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

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REVIEWED: 2/11/08, 1/25/10, 1/20/15, 9/23/15, 10/20/15, 2/6/19, 4/8/19, 12/9/19, 7/20/20, 8/2021, 12/10/24  
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