

### **In-District Transfer**

The Dubuque Community School District allows K-12 transfer to an attendance center other than the home center. The intent of the policy is to give students and parents a choice with certain restrictions / conditions.

#### **Basis for Application**

Application for in-district transfer may be made based on

- documented medical reasons;
- documented legal reasons;
- imminent and documented change of address for the family;
- sibling in attendance at the building in the same year;
- parent working in the building during the same year;
- child care reasons;
- extenuating circumstances which would create a hardship significantly affecting the learning progress of the student for whom transfer is requested;
- extenuating circumstances – as defined by Policy 1001 Anti-Harassment/Bullying and/or Policy 1005 Anti-Discrimination.

#### **Penalty for Providing False Information**

Applications must include accurate information. Applications which contain false information — including information about residence or custody — will be rejected, and decisions based upon that false information will be rescinded immediately. Families may be required to submit verifiable documentation to support applications.

#### **Transportation**

Parents of students approved for in-district transfer are responsible for transporting their student to the new school.

### **Elementary**

#### **Application Procedures**

Students not previously approved for transfer must register at the school assigned to their residence. Families wishing to transfer may secure an In-District Transfer Application on the district website ([www.dbqschools.org](http://www.dbqschools.org)) on or after January 15 and must submit a completed application by **4:30 p.m. on March 1** of the school year preceding the school year for which the request is being made. Required documentation must accompany the completed application. The Superintendent (or designee) will review all completed applications submitted by the deadline and will respond in writing by March 30, indicating

approval or denial. Applications received after March 1 will be filed and will be acted upon after secondary registration, with decisions communicated by August 15.

### **Restrictions and Conditions**

The primary factors to be considered in determining approval or denial of the application are availability of appropriate programs, space availability, and class size. Based on actual and/or projected enrollment, the Superintendent may close grade levels in specified schools to new in-district transfer in order to comply with class size guidelines. Students approved for transfer do not qualify for district-provided transportation, but may request a “pay ride,” if a route and seat are available. Students who qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch also qualify for free or reduced-cost transportation when space is available on an established route.

Unless space considerations require a student’s transfer to be revoked in subsequent years, once an elementary transfer request has been approved, the student will attend the requested school for the complete academic year and may remain at the requested school for the remainder of the elementary career without submitting another application. If it becomes necessary for a student’s transfer to be revoked due to space, the district will notify the parents/guardians using the notification timelines already established in this policy.

Once an elementary transfer request has been denied, a second application for the same request will not be considered for the same school year. Parents may utilize the Appeal Procedures outlined below.

### **Review/Approval Procedures**

An administrator designated by the Superintendent will review all complete applications submitted by the deadline and will respond in writing by March 30, indicating approval or denial.

### **Appeal Procedures**

When an in-district transfer request which was submitted on time is denied, parents may appeal the decision to the Educational Programs/Policy Committee of the Board. Requests for appeal must be submitted in writing to the Board Secretary by June 10. The Committee will schedule a hearing to review each case to determine whether or not the policy has been misinterpreted or misapplied, whether further information or changed circumstances merit a reversal of the decision, or whether extenuating circumstances exist which cause a hardship justifying reversal of the original decision. The Committee will respond in writing to all appeals within two weeks of its meeting.

### **Discontinuing Participation in In-District Transfer**

To avoid disruption to the student’s educational program, parents wishing to withdraw their student from participation in in-district transfer may do so only at the following times and only if sufficient class space is available at the school and grade level to which the student wishes to return:

- prior to the beginning of the school year; or

- at the end of either the first or second trimester.

Parents wishing to discontinue transfer must submit a letter to the Superintendent requesting approval.

The district also reserves the right to discontinue a student's transfer for issues that impact student performance of the student or other students, including attendance and behavior.

## **Secondary**

### **Application Procedures**

Students not previously approved for transfer must register at the school assigned to their residence. Families wishing to transfer may secure an In-District Transfer Application on the district website ([www.dbqschools.org](http://www.dbqschools.org)) on or after January 15 and must submit a completed application by **4:30 p.m. on March 1** of the school year preceding the school year for which the request is being made. Required documentation must accompany the completed application. The Superintendent (or designee) will review all completed applications submitted by the deadline and will respond in writing by March 30, indicating approval or denial. Applications received after March 1 will be filed and will be acted upon after secondary registration, with decisions communicated by August 15.

### **Restrictions and Conditions**

The primary factors to be considered in determining approval or denial of the application are availability of appropriate programs, space availability, and class size. Approval of transfers will be monitored to maintain equivalency between schools. Once a secondary transfer request has been approved, the student will attend the requested school for the complete academic year and may remain at the requested school for the remainder of the middle school or high school career without submitting another application. If it becomes necessary for a student's transfer to be revoked due to space, the district will notify the parents/guardians using the notification timelines already established in this policy.

Students approved for transfer do not qualify for district-provided transportation, but may request a "pay ride," if a route and seat are available. Students who qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch also qualify for free or reduced-cost transportation when space is available on an established route.

Once a secondary transfer request has been denied, a second application for the same request will not be considered for the same school year. Parents may utilize the Appeal Procedures outlined below.

Students in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade who move out of their home school boundary during the year may remain at their current school of enrollment and are not required to file an in-district transfer request.

### **Review/Approval Procedures**

An administrator designated by the Superintendent will review all complete applications submitted by the deadline and will respond in writing by March 30, indicating approval or denial.

### **Appeal Procedures**

When an in-district transfer request which was submitted on time is denied, parents may appeal the decision to the Educational Programs/Policy/Strategy Committee of the Board. Requests for appeal must be submitted in writing to the Board Secretary by April 10. The Committee will schedule a hearing to review each case to determine whether or not the policy has been misinterpreted or misapplied, whether further information or changed circumstances merit a reversal of the decision, or whether extenuating circumstances exist which cause a hardship justifying reversal of the original decision. The Committee will respond in writing to all appeals within two weeks of its meeting.

### **Discontinuing Participation in In-District Transfer**

In-district transfer requests are granted for a minimum period of one year. To avoid disruption to the student's educational program, parents wishing to withdraw their student from participation in in-district transfer after one year may request to do so by no later than June 15.

Parents wishing to discontinue transfer must submit a letter to the Superintendent requesting approval.

The district also reserves the right to discontinue a student's transfer for issues that impact student performance of the student or other students, including attendance and behavior.

Adopted: September 20, 1993  
Revised: August 8, 2016  
Revised: January 14, 2019  
Revised: December 13, 2021

## **In-District Transfer**

### Receipt of Applications

Applications for in-district transfer will be officially filed when they are received by and stamped for date of submission in the office of the Superintendent.

### Adherence to Established Deadlines

The timeline for submission of in-district transfer applications will be adhered to strictly. Applications filed after the deadline will not be considered until after August registration. The exception to this guideline will be for students newly enrolling in the district after the deadline. Applications from those new district enrollees will be considered on an individual basis, and acted upon as soon as they are submitted, dependent upon availability of space and staffing at requested schools.

### Required Documentation

In addition to submitting a fully complete application form, families requesting in-district transfer must provide, upon request and when appropriate, documentation which supports their application, such as proof of residence, physician statement, court or police order.

### Determination of Available Elementary Classrooms for Transfer

The Superintendent and/or designee will meet with building principals to review actual and projected enrollments by grade level. Using the Class Size Guidelines and considering programs and physical space within each building, the Superintendent and/or designee will determine those grade levels at each school which must be closed to in-district transfer applications. For those grade levels and schools where transfer applications may be accepted, the Superintendent and/or designee will establish the number of such applications which may be approved for the next school year.

### Determining Priority for Approval of Applications

If the number of in-district transfer applications exceeds the number which has been determined may be approved for the requested school and grade level, the following reasons will be considered:

- documented medical reasons;
- documented legal reasons;
- imminent and documented change of address for the family;
- sibling in attendance at the building in the same year;
- parent working in the building during the same year;
- academic program reasons;
- childcare reasons;

- extenuating circumstances which would create a hardship significantly affecting the learning progress of the student for whom transfer is requested.

#### Determining Approval of Secondary In-District Transfer Applications

The number of requests to attend another middle school or high school will be monitored to maintain equivalency between schools. Approximately equal numbers of requests will be approved from one school to another, with applications considered as described above.

#### Restrictions Related to Students Receiving Special Education Services

In-district transfer requests for students receiving special education services shall be granted only if the requested school maintains a special education program appropriate to the student's needs and if the requested school has adequate staff and space. Final determination of such requests will be made by the Superintendent and/or designee in consultation with the executive director of special education, principals, and parents.