

Oxbow Unified Union School District (OUUSD) Intradistrict School Choice Program

Guidelines and Procedures

Guidelines:

- Requests to attend a school in another town within OUUSD will be granted based on space availability and with the goal of creating balanced class sizes in all schools.
- Regardless of residence, every family will have a choice of enrolling in any grade-level appropriate school operated by the district (Newbury and Bradford).
- Transportation to buildings will be provided for students attending school within one's town of residence. For students choosing to attend school in a neighboring town, transportation is not provided by the OUUSD, unless the existing bus route passes the child's residence on the way to or from the choice school and there is sufficient space on the bus.

Procedures:

Town of Residence Assignment: All students will be assigned to the school in their town of residence.

School Choice Program

The number of available slots will be determined based on the following criteria:

- Space available in the building
- Space available in each grade level
- Right Sizing Classes and Compliance with Class Size Guidelines

Parents will then submit the Intraschool District School Choice Election form by the annual deadline. Slots will be awarded as follows:

1. Younger siblings of existing school choice participants will be assigned to the same school as the older sibling.
2. Individuals on the wait list from the year prior
3. In the event there are more requests than there is remaining space available, a lottery system will be used to select participants to fill open spots.

Wait lists

- Oxbow Unified Union School District (OUUSD) will create wait lists for all schools where there are more applicants than available seats for a particular grade.
- A student's place on the waitlist is based on a lottery for all choice applications received prior to the deadline.
- When seats become available, students will be assigned from wait lists based on the order the children were selected in the lottery, and the priorities.

School Changes

In extenuating circumstances, school changes mid-year will be considered on a case by case basis. Parents should apply through the OESU central office in Bradford.

Length of Placement

Once a student is placed, they shall remain at the choice school until Grade 6. Requests to return to the school in the town of the student's residence will be considered as a part of the next year's intraschool district school choice program. Once school choice is elected the school in the student's town of residence becomes a choice school and the school of placement becomes the student's home school.

This plan will be reviewed and may be modified yearly and any changes to the guidelines will be completed by February 1st of subsequent years.

K-6 Intradistrict School Choice Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is school choice and who is allowed to exercise school choice? Children entering grades K-6 who live in the towns of Bradford and Newbury may exercise school choice. Our goal is to both allow options for families and also make balanced class sizes to provide a positive learning environment for all of our children. By exercising a local school choice options we can:

- Create balanced class sizes in all schools
- Eliminate, combine or divide too small or too large classes
- Create optimal learning environments in all schools
- Meet diverse needs that parents and families have for their children
- Provide options

Who gets school choice? School choice will be limited to the amount of available space in each building. If you are interested in choosing a school other than the one located in your town, you complete and submit the school choice form. Once we receive all the applications, we will assign students. If there is more interest in one particular school than spaces available, we will conduct a lottery.

Does this mean that one of our schools will close? There are no current plans to close any schools.

Will my child be able to attend this same school for all of his/her elementary or middle school years? Your child will be able to attend the same school and continue through the highest grade offered at that school.

What do we do if, after a year or two of exercising school choice, we want to change back to our original school? In future years we hope to continue school choice, and you would re-apply for school choice for your hometown school. Choice will be provided if space is available.

If more children want to exercise school choice than spaces available who gets priority? First priority goes to children who live in the home-based geographic area of a school. If parents list a choice school that is not in their home-based geographic area, and there are more children interested than spaces available, the school will conduct a lottery. Please refer to the school choice guidelines for more information.

Who will my son/daughter's teacher be? At this point we have not made teacher assignments for any of our classes. Once we receive all applications, teachers will be assigned based on numbers.

Is _____ teacher teaching ___ grade at _____ school next year? At this point we have not made teacher assignments for specific grades. Once we receive all applications, teachers will be assigned based on numbers.

What if I miss the deadline for school choice? We will honor requests for school choice after the deadline only if there is space available on a first come, first served basis.

School Choice Program for OUUSD

Timeline:

February: OUUSD Elementary Schools communicate to parents the availability of school choice and where to access information if they wish to apply for school choice.

March 15th: Parent(s) or guardian(s) fill out a school choice form for each child—indicate school of choice, and include a brief letter of explanation about why you are requesting school choice, and return the form:

-By mail: Orange East SU, PO Box 396, Bradford, VT 05033 Attn: Sherry Hoyt

-Via email to the Superintendent's executive assistant at sherry.hoyt@oesu.org

May 15th: Schools will mail letters to parents/guardians explaining the school choice placement for their child and general information and timelines for their son/daughter's individual school.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Please Circle grade child will be entering in the fall:

K 1 2 3 4 5 6

First: _____

Middle: _____

Last: _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Date of Birth: _____

Current Mailing Address:

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Parent/Guardian #1

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Preferred Email:

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Physical and Mailing address (if different from student):

Parent/Guardian #2

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Preferred Email:

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Physical and Mailing address (if different from student):

Student lives with: Parent/Guardian #1 _____ Parent/Guardian #2 _____
Both _____

SIBLING INFORMATION:

Name(s) _____ M ____ F ____

DOB _____ School _____ Grade _____

Name(s) _____ M ____ F ____

DOB _____ School _____ Grade _____

Name(s) _____ M ____ F ____

DOB _____ School _____ Grade _____

Name(s) _____ M ____ F ____

DOB _____ School _____ Grade _____

What will be your current town of residence for the upcoming school year (circle one)?

Bradford Newbury

What is your school of choice for the upcoming school year (circle one)?

Bradford Elementary Newbury Elementary