

Thank you for your interest in Eaton Rapids Public Schools!

What does Michigan's School of Choice law mean for your child?

Who Can Choose

If you reside in any of the following school districts you may apply for your child to fill advertised openings in the Eaton Rapids Public Schools: Mason, Leslie, Springport, Olivet, Charlotte and Holt. In addition to residents of these districts, this option is also available to residents of any of the member school districts from the following Michigan Intermediate School Districts: Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson.

Loss of Housing / Moving to a Shelter / Moving in with Friends or Relatives

A student who moves in with friends or relatives, moves to a shelter or has no place to live, with or without their parents or brothers and sisters, may be allowed to continue to be enrolled and receive transportation to/from his/her school in Eaton Rapids. If you are in one of these situations, tell your building principal or call Mrs. Lezotte at 517-663-1717.

How to Apply for School of Choice Status

Near the end of each term/semester, Eaton Rapids Public Schools will publicize the number of openings in each grade for the next term/semester, and announce an application period in local newspapers. An application must be completed for each student. Applications may be picked up in the office of any district facility, or can be printed from the district web site www.erpsk12.org (click on "Parent Connection"). Completed applications should be returned to the appropriate building office(s) during the publicized application period. Openings will be filled after the close of the application period.

Grade Level Placement

Students retained in their current grade level in their current district may not avoid retention by applying to advance to the next grade level in Eaton Rapids. Students may only apply for openings in their current and appropriate grade level, and must have earned the proper amount of credits for the grade level for which the student is applying based upon the criteria used by the Eaton Rapids Public Schools.

Discipline

Eaton Rapids may refuse to enroll students who have been suspended from school in the last two years, or who have ever been expelled from school or convicted of a felony. Students who have experienced suspension or expulsion may still apply, but may be refused enrollment at the discretion of the building administrator and the superintendent. If undisclosed suspensions, expulsions or convictions are discovered after the application is approved, approval may be withdrawn and the student may be un-enrolled involuntarily from Eaton Rapids Public Schools immediately. Resident and non-resident students are subject at all times to all regulations set forth in all school, transportation, and athletic hand books, and all district policies and guidelines

Special Services

Enrolling parents/guardians of students who have ever received special educational services must disclose students' most current diagnosis and placement, and include a copy of the most recent Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team report with their school of choice application. The Eaton Rapids Public Schools Special Services Department will review documentation, contact previous schools for details of services provided and initiate negotiation of a cooperative educational agreement with the student's resident public school district. Enrollment will not be initiated until such an agreement is obtained and the application is approved and signed by the Superintendent of Eaton Rapids Public Schools. If pre-existing, undisclosed special education issues are discovered after the application is approved, approval may be withdrawn and the student may be un-enrolled involuntarily from Eaton Rapids Public Schools immediately.

Transportation

Eaton Rapids Public Schools is not required to transport non-resident students attending under the school of choice program. However, our policies do allow a school of choice student to ride a district bus if they wait at an existing district stop with an adult in the morning, and are picked up at an existing district stop by an adult after school. Availability of this option is also based on routes established for resident students and available seats on the buses. Routes, bus capacity, and the number of resident students change from year to year. If a route is eliminated or if the resident population on the route increases, transportation arrangements can be terminated and transportation will be the sole responsibility of the student's parent/guardian as long as he/she continues to attend Eaton Rapids under the school of choice program. Resident and non-resident students riding Eaton Rapids Public Schools buses are subject at all times to all regulations set forth in all school, transportation, and athletic handbooks, and all district policies and guidelines.

Athletics

Students entering Eaton Rapids Public Schools under the schools of choice program may participate only in accordance with the handbook of athletic department.

Enrollment

Enrollment of a non-resident student in the Eaton Rapids Public Schools will not occur until a school of choice application is approved and signed by the Superintendent. All efforts will be made to process applications in time for student to attend on the first day of classes on the first day of a term/semester. Unfortunately, that is not always possible. Until such an application is approved and signed by the Superintendent, the student applying should continue to be enrolled and attend school in their resident district.

Students Moving Out of the District

If a student moves out of the district during the school year they must complete a form for enrolled students moving outside district boundaries during the course of an academic year. The student may continue to be enrolled in the Eaton Rapids Public Schools for the remainder of the academic year as long as his/her behavior is in accordance with all district handbooks, policies and guidelines. In order for the student to attend Eaton Rapids Public Schools in subsequent academic years, an opening must be available in the appropriate grade level, and an application must be submitted during a school of choice open application period and approved and signed by the Superintendent. Until such an application is approved and signed by the Superintendent, the student applying should continue to be enrolled and attend school in their resident district, a private school, or in another district's school of choice program. Revised 10/26/2011