

Staff Implementation Plan for BOE Resolution Regarding School Calendar Choice
WCPSS Growth and Planning Department
January 19, 2010

The following resolution on School Calendar Choice was adopted by the WCPSS Board of Education on January 5, 2010:

"We strongly oppose the mandatory assignments of students to year-round calendar schools and support calendar choice for all families. Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, there will be no mandatory year-round assignments. Every effort will be made to accommodate families into the calendar of their choice, whether it is year-round or traditional, at a school within proximity of their residence. We will no longer deny calendar applications based on socio-economic status. We will use each and every seat efficiently.

The staff of the Growth and Planning Department will implement this resolution in the following way:

1. The primary process for placing families in the calendar of their choice will be the annual Magnet and Calendar Choice application process which, for the 2010-11 school year, will take place from February 8th to February 28th. All current students and pre-registered students are eligible to submit applications during the application period.
2. A one-page flyer announcing the application process will be sent home with all current students during the week of February 1st to 5th. Copies of the flyer will be available to give to all parents who pre-register their kindergarten students beginning February 4th. The format and content of the flyer has been modified to emphasize the availability of calendar choice. (See attached sample.)
3. As is the current practice, bus transportation will be provided to all Calendar Choice schools for students who are placed through the application process.
4. Staff is recommending several changes in the Calendar Choice school designations which are available to families by application. The changes are intended to balance anticipated requests with available space in schools and avoid overcrowding when calendar requests are approved. A list of the recommended changes is attached. BOE approval of those changes is requested.
 - a. If an application area is changed and families are currently attending the school which will no longer be the Calendar Choice school for their address, staff recommends that a request for transfer to stay at the school be automatically approved but that bus transportation would be available only to the newly designated Calendar Choice school.
5. Staff is recommending that the five Modified Calendar schools be treated as single-track year-round schools and that families assigned to the modified calendar schools be able to apply for placement in a traditional calendar school. The recommended application options for the Modified Calendar schools are attached. BOE approval of those options is requested.
6. When families move into Wake County or relocate and move to a new domicile in Wake County after the February application period, they will be given the opportunity to apply for a Calendar Choice school and the application will be processed in the same manner as those applications received during the February application period.

7. Applications for Calendar Choice schools will not be approved unless they are submitted during the February application period or within ten days of receiving a new school assignment following a change in domicile.
8. Families who are placed in a Calendar Choice school through application will be offered an opportunity to decline that placement. If they do not decline placement but change their mind when they receive their official school assignment on May 15th, they may submit a transfer request for a “return to base” during the annual transfer application period which typically runs from May 15th to June 1st. Requests to return to base that are submitted during that time period will be approved.
9. Requests to change calendar once a student has begun the school year on a calendar will not be approved unless the transfer request is based upon extraordinary or unusual reasons.
10. Crowding that occurs prior to the start of the school year will not impact the placement of students in the calendar choice of families. If applications are received during the appropriate time periods, all requests will be approved unless special education requirements cannot be met at the requested school. After the school year begins, the maximum crowding of any school that will be allowed as efforts are made to accommodate families into the calendar of their choice will be as follows:
 - a. For elementary school requests received after the start of the school year, the maximum crowding limit will be reached when the classes at the requested grade level are at the maximum level and an additional student would force a reorganization.
 - b. For middle school requests received after the start of the school year, the maximum crowding limit will be reached when an additional student would force the average core class size on every team above 30 or force the organization of a new team for which the school does not have sufficient classrooms.
 - c. If the maximum crowding limit is reached, an application for that calendar choice school will not be approved. The parent(s) of the student will be offered a transfer (without bus transportation) to the closest available school that offers the calendar requested by the family.

If schools become overcrowded through the calendar choice process for the upcoming school year, the Board of Education may choose to reassign students, modify application areas, or cap school enrollment for the subsequent school year but assignments for the upcoming school year would not be impacted.