

Champlain Islands Unified Union School District

Grand Isle School

Isle La Motte School

North Hero School

Champlain Islands Unified Union School District: K-6 School Choice K-6 School Choice 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 Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, or North Hero may exercise school choice to any of the public K-6 schools in these towns. Our goal is to allow options for families and balance class sizes to provide a positive learning environment for all of our children. Parents may apply to exercise choice in any of the public schools in the towns listed. Given space availability, we will work to meet as many families' needs as possible. By exercising local school choice options we can:

- Create balanced class sizes in all schools
- 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, complete and submit the school choice application. After the April application deadline, we will assign students. If there is more interest in one particular school than spaces available, we will conduct a lottery.

What if there is not enough space in a school? We will conduct a lottery and then maintain a waiting list.

How is class size determined? The Champlain Islands Unified Union School Board has a class size policy, under which school Principals will submit to the Superintendent their class size limits and the number of school choice slots available. Factors that are taken into consideration include the physical classroom size (fire code limits the number of children in particular classrooms); and migration buffer numbers (each school must allow for several slots in the case of student's moving [migrating] into the town and becoming a legal resident). After August 25th, any unfilled migration buffer slots can be filled with students who are on the waiting list.

Will my child be able to attend this same school for all of his/her K-6 school years? For grades K-6 your child will be able to attend the same school and continue through the highest grade offered at that school. This school choice program does not include preK.

If we exercise school choice and we have younger children, will they also be able to attend the choice school? A priority of the school choice policy is given for younger siblings entering school after a child who has exercised school choice to attend the same school as his or her older sibling. We will make every effort to meet the needs of families so children in the same family can enroll in the same school- both younger and older siblings. This may not always be possible, however, every effort will be made. Siblings are defined as biological children and stepchildren living in the same household.

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My child is currently attending one particular school and we feel a change of schools would be in his/her best interest, we would like school choice next year. School choice is extended to all students K-6 next year.

What do we do if, after a year or two of exercising school choice, we want to change back to our original resident school? In future years we hope to continue school choice, and you would re-apply for school choice for your hometown elementary school. Choice will be provided if space is available. If you are a resident of a town, you will get first priority for attending the school in your town.

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

Who will my son/daughter's teacher be? We let parents and families know about their classroom teachers in early summer.

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.

How will I know if my child got their first choice school? We will notify parents of their school choice by May 1st. Parents will need to confirm their acceptance by May 15th.