

# Champlain Islands Unified Union School District

Serving the towns of Isle La Motte, North Hero & Grand Isle

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## CIUUSD: K-6 School Choice Guidelines

Beginning in the 2020-21 school year

### **Town-Resident Assignment Guidelines**

The Town-Resident Plan uses a student's home as the starting point.

- Champlain Islands Unified Union School District offers a Town-Resident school for every family based on their home address. Transportation will be provided to every school for children and families living in the town of their home residence.
- Every family will also have a K-6 choice of all public schools in the towns of Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, or North Hero.
- Families may select any Champlain Islands Unified Union School District school, however transportation will not be provided for children and families choosing to attend a school outside of their Town-Resident school. Parents may transport their child to the closest available bus stop.

### **Priorities for the Town-Resident school choice plan**

What are "priorities?" Sometimes a school does not have room for every student whose parent/guardian lists it as a choice. When this happens, the student is assigned a school based on priorities. Please see below for details.

1. Town-Resident zone - highest priority
  - a. Children will be given priority to attend the school that is in the town in which they reside.
2. Continued Enrollment- second priority
  - a. Children currently enrolled in a school as of January 2019, regardless of their town of residence, will be given priority. No child who is attending a school in the current school year will be displaced by school choice.
3. Siblings- third priority
  - a. If one sibling is attending a school out of the Town-Resident area, the other sibling will be given priority to attend that school as well.
  - b. Siblings are defined as biological children or step children living in the same household.
  - c. The sibling priority does not apply to children who attended pre-kindergarten and are applying for choice in a subsequent year.

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## Availability of school choice

- The Champlain Islands Unified Union School District School Board has a class size policy.
- School Principals submit to the Superintendent their class size limits, given student population, and the number of school choice slots available as guided by the policy.
- Factors taken into consideration include the physical classroom size (fire code limits the number of children in particular classrooms); migration buffer numbers (each school must allow for several slots to allow for students moving [migrating] and becoming legal residents).

## Waitlists

If parents do not get their first choice, their child will be placed on a waitlist for one or more of their other choices. Rules for wait lists are:

- Champlain Islands Unified Union School District 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 scheduled Spring Break for the next year. The application must include names of siblings, current schools, and school choices selected on the application.
- Anyone who applies for school choice after the Spring Break deadline will be placed at the end of a waiting list.
- After August 25, any unfilled migration buffer slots can be filled with students who are on the waitlist.
- A son or daughter is defined as a biological or legal stepchild.

## Coming off a waitlist

- When seats become available, students will be assigned from wait lists based on the order the children were selected in the lottery.
- From mid-April through mid-August, as seats become available, children are automatically moved off the waitlist. Parents will be notified of the space in their chosen school.
- Families receive notification about their new school assignment by letter sent via mail and will have two weeks to accept the school choice option.
- Families interested in school choice who submit an application after Spring Break will be placed at the end of the waitlist.

## School Changes

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Families may apply to change schools during the current school year. This is not recommended if it is not in the best interest of the child or the family. As a rule, most school changes will be considered for the following school year. However, in extenuating circumstances, school changes mid-year will be considered on a case by case basis. Parents must complete a school choice application; exercising school choice will be determined based on availability of space.

## **Procedures for school choice**

To apply for school choice, families must complete the school choice application form and return it to:

Champlain Islands Unified Union School District  
Attn: School Choice Processing  
42 School Street Extension  
Isle La Motte, VT 05436

Forms must be returned prior to the scheduled spring break. Parents will be notified by May 1st of their child's placement in a choice school for the next school year.

## **Procedures for accepting a school choice placement**

Parents must notify the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District Offices by May 15th to confirm if they will accept the school choice placement.

*This plan will be reviewed and may be modified yearly and any changes to the guidelines will be completed by January 15th of subsequent years.*