

Out of County School Choice

This site is for students who reside within DeSoto County and wish to attend a public school in a neighboring county.

Out of county requests must be submitted annually for formal school board approval.

Please complete an application for each student requesting to exit DeSoto County. All requests to exit DeSoto County must be presented to the DeSoto County School Board for formal board approval.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Board submission procedures require receipt of requests, to place items of business on the agenda, twelve (12) business days in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

- An email notification will be sent confirming board approval/disapproval of the application the day following the board meeting
- Transportation is not an option when requesting to exit DeSoto County
- A separate form must be completed for each child
- Out of county requests must be submitted annually for formal board approval

PLEASE NOTE: For questions regarding policies and procedures or questions regarding the completion of the DeSoto County application, please contact the superintendent's office.

School Choice Open Enrollment

Please read this entire section prior to applying for school choice.

The School District of DeSoto County's School Choice Open Enrollment initiative provides an opportunity for a DeSoto County student to attend a public school in a neighboring county, as long as the requested school is not critically overcrowded. The parent/guardian of a student wishing to attend a school outside the county must submit a School Choice Open Enrollment application to the School District of DeSoto County during the established open enrollment period. Submitting an application does not guarantee that the student will be approved to transfer to the requested school of choice.

OPEN ENROLLMENT TIMELINE

School Choice Open Enrollment applications for the following school year will be accepted February 1 through March 1. Applications must be received no later than March 1st. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Requests to attend a DeSoto County school, if you live in another county, will require a release from your HOME county. The approved release must be received within the Open Enrollment period.

NOTICE

Transportation to the choice school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. There are no exceptions.

Athletics

The district's middle and high school interscholastic athletic program adheres to the rules and policies of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). The FHSAA's new state statute, with regards to student athletes, as of August 1, 2016, is as follows:

1. Upon school choice approval, high school students will be "immediately eligible to participate" when first enrolling in school or transferring schools, with certain limiting conditions, set forth below. Mid-Season transfers may seek to immediately join an existing team roster, so long as:
 - a. The designated roster for the sport has not reached maximum size; and the coach determines that the student has the requisite skill and ability to participate.
 - b. The student has not already participated in the same sport at another school during that same school year, unless the student meets one of the following:
 - A dependent child of active-duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders;
 - A child who has been relocated due to foster care placement in a different school zone;

- A child who moved due to a court ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent; or
 - Otherwise authorized to participate for good cause, as determined by board policy
2. “Eligible to participate” is defined as including the required medical forms and has expanded to include off-season conditioning, summer workouts, and preseason conditioning, regardless of whether the student has been placed on a team.
 3. Non-member, small private schools (125 students or fewer) may now participate at zoned public schools in whatever sport(s) their private school does not offer.
 4. Individual Home Education, Charter School, or Florida Virtual School (FLVSFT), full-time student, who otherwise meets the criteria, is eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned to attend by the district school board. Please reference HB 7029 for more detailed information.

Parental Agreement/Information

Falsifying and/or omitting accurate information will result in revocation of the student reassignment. Students are expected to adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in the School District of DeSoto County’s Code of Conduct. Those who are found to be in violation of any policy regarding attendance and/or discipline may be requested to return to their own county of residence.

Your signature on the School Choice=Open Enrollment application indicates you have read, understand and agree to all of the terms and conditions regarding the School District of DeSoto County’s School Choice Open Enrollment program. Furthermore, by signing this you are verifying that you have legal authority to make educational decisions for this student.

SB Policy

FL Statute 1002.31