

# SECTION 105(c) Allegan Area Schools of Choice

## Program Packet First & Second Trimesters

Available to families residing in Barry, Kalamazoo, Kent, Ottawa, and Van Buren ISD/ESA's

The following schools are participating in the Section 105(c) Allegan Area Schools of Choice Program:

- Allegan Public Schools
- Fennville Public Schools
- Glenn Public Schools
- Hopkins Public Schools
- Martin Public Schools
- Otsego Public Schools
- Plainwell Community Schools
- Wayland Union Schools

The eight school districts in Allegan County, with the support of the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (AAESA), are offering a Section 105(c) Schools of Choice Program for the first and second trimesters/semesters of the 2018-2019 school year. This program allows students of families who reside in Kalamazoo, Kent, Ottawa and Van Buren ISD/ESA school districts a choice to attend Allegan, Fennville, Glenn, Hopkins, Martin, Otsego, Plainwell or Wayland school districts.

This booklet is designed to help families learn about the program and the policies and procedures that have been developed to help ensure student success.

### A family's checklist:

- Select your choice school (where you would like your child to attend.)
- Submit your child's completed application to your choice school by **Friday, September 7, 2018.**
- Receive notification of acceptance or non-acceptance from your choice school.
- Complete necessary enrollment forms at your choice school.

# What Families Need to Know

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*The application process for the Section 105(c) Allegan Area Schools of Choice Program has been designed to guarantee all applicants a fair and equitable opportunity for choosing a school. Parents or guardians should be aware of the application timelines, length of transfers, and graduation requirements. Listed below are the guidelines regarding the process:*

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- 1. Applications for the Section 105(c) Allegan Area Schools of Choice Program are available from participating school districts during regular school hours. The application must be returned to the choice school no later than Friday, September 7, 2018.*
- 2. A student requesting a transfer is allowed to request which district he/she would like to attend. Requests for specific building(s) will be considered on an availability basis.*
- 3. An application should be completed for each student (including siblings) wishing to participate in the Section 105(c) Allegan Area Schools of Choice program.*
- 4. The number of transfers allowed under this Schools of Choice Program is determined by the space available in each participating district and the space available at each building. Local district boards of education may exceed this limit, at their discretion.*
- 5. If the choice district receives more applications for the applicant's grade level than the choice district has space available, a "random lottery drawing" will be held.*
- 6. The Choice district may refuse to enroll a non-resident applicant if the applicant is, or has been within the preceding two years, suspended from school or if the applicant has ever been expelled from school.*
- 7. As required by Section 388.1705c of the State School Aid Act – for Section 105c schools of choice students, in order for a district to enroll a nonresident pupil who is eligible for special education programs and services or who is a child with disabilities, the enrolling district shall have a written agreement with the resident district of the pupil for the purpose of providing the pupil with a free appropriate public education. The written agreement shall include, but is not limited to, an agreement on the responsibility for the payment of the added costs of special education programs and services for the pupil. The written agreement shall address how the agreement shall be amended in the event of significant changes in the costs or level of special education programs or services required by the pupil. A nonresident pupil who is eligible for special education programs and services or who is a child with disabilities cannot be enrolled in their choice school until this written agreement is in place. If the nonresident pupil was enrolled under Section 105c Schools of Choice, and that pupil subsequently is determined eligible for special education services, the district must enter into a written cooperative agreement with the special education pupil's resident district as to the payment of added costs for programs and services. If a cooperative agreement cannot be obtained with the pupil's resident district, the pupil shall not be enrolled in the nonresident district beginning on the next count date.*
- 8. A student approved for transfer to a choice district is allowed to remain in the choice district until his/her class graduates from that school. If a student approved for transfer leaves their choice district for any reason, the student must re-apply for Schools of Choice if they want to return to that choice district.*

# Graduation, Promotion, and Curriculum

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Each school district in the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency has developed a curriculum that is based on the State of Michigan Core Curriculum Model. In addition, each district has its own locally approved grading system and graduation requirements. While there are some similarities of requirements among districts, parents or guardians should be aware of the following conditions of the Allegan Area Schools of Choice Program:

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*Participants are required to graduate with the number of credits determined by the district they are attending at the time of graduation.*

- 1. Graduation requirements are located on the district's website.*
- 2. Upon acceptance into the program, a current listing of performance requirements from that building will be supplied to participants.*

## Transportation Guidelines

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Transportation is a key issue in the Schools of Choice Program. It is the sole responsibility of parents or guardians to transport their children to and from the choice school. The following is a list of the transportation guidelines for this Schools of Choice Program:

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- 1. Parents or guardians will be responsible for transporting students to and from school in the Allegan Area Schools of Choice Program. Parents or guardians should also be aware that on those rare occasions when school closes early due to weather, etc., it is also their responsibility to provide transportation for the child from the school to their home.*
- 2. Parents or guardians may have the option to drive their child to a pre-approved bus stop in the school district of choice if space is available on the bus. Once the child is transported from school to the bus stop, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to provide transportation home for the child. Parents or guardians should also be aware that on those rare occasions when school closes early due to weather, etc., it is also their responsibility to provide transportation for the child from the bus stop to their home.*
- 3. Parents or guardians will assume the responsibility for the safety of the child at the bus stop.*
- 4. Students participating in the Allegan Area Schools of Choice Program, who are eligible to ride a school bus, are required to follow the rules, regulations, and bus discipline policy of the choice district.*

## Athletic Policy

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*The focus of this Schools of Choice Program is based on academics, not athletics. Therefore, students and parents or guardians should be aware of the following conditions for transferring:*

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- 1. Students will follow the choice district's policies for participation in the school's athletic activities.*
- 2. A student athlete participating in the Allegan Area Schools of Choice Program is eligible to participate in an inter-scholastic athletic contest according to the rules and regulations as defined and governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)*
- 3. The action to include schools of choice within the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency does not affect the athletic eligibility of transferring students. Students who transfer by choice from one school to another and do not otherwise satisfy the MHSAA transfer regulation are ineligible for inter-scholastic athletics for one full semester.*