



## **School Choice FAQs**

### **Grafton Public Schools**

#### **School Choice Program:**

The School Choice program allows parents to send their children to school in communities other than the city or town in which they reside. Tuition is paid by the sending district to the receiving district. Districts may elect not to enroll School Choice students if no space is available. Access to a School Choice application does not guarantee space will be available at a particular school, in a particular grade or both.

For information from the Department of Education, please click below.

[Department of Education School Choice Guidelines](#)

For information from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, please click below.

[Commonwealth of Mass Legislature Section 12B](#)

#### ***Can anyone participate in School Choice?***

Any family can apply for School Choice consideration as long as the school district they wish to attend participates in School Choice. To see a list of participating schools, please click on the Department of Education link listed above.

#### ***How are School Choice students selected?***

The Grafton Public School District has an application and lottery process to select School Choice students that is in adherence with the provisions set forth by the Department of Education and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The lottery process is used when there are more applications than seats in a particular grade. Students not selected will automatically be added to the wait list.

#### ***Do all grades participate in School Choice in Grafton?***

Currently, we have over 70 School Choice students spread throughout grades 1-12. In 2018-2019, the School Committee approved to open 4 Kindergarten seats for the first time.

***How many School Choice students are accepted each year?***

The number varies each year and depends upon the number of seats available in each grade in each building in the district. The Superintendent works closely with building Principals to estimate class size numbers for the coming year.

***How will I know if my child has been accepted?***

Each family will receive a letter informing them of their School Choice status (accepted, not accepted) immediately after the application deadline and completion of the lottery, if needed. If your child was accepted, you will also receive a “School Choice Acceptance Form.” On this form, you will indicate whether or not you accept the offer of school choice enrollment. Your acceptance letter will also include instructions for enrolling your child at the assigned school.

If you decline the offer of School Choice, please complete the form and return as soon as possible so that we may offer the seat to the next on the waiting list. Declining a seat does prohibit you from applying in future years.

***What happens if my child is not accepted?***

The District will maintain a waiting list of students who applied but were not accepted. If a seat becomes available, the District will contact the first child on the waiting list to offer him/her a School Choice seat. The waiting list resets annually so you will need to re-apply each year for a seat.

***I have a child that is already enrolled through the School Choice program. Can my other children enroll in the District as well?***

No. Siblings of students already enrolled through School Choice must also apply and go through the lottery process. However, siblings are given priority for enrollment.

***Will mailing academic records, MCAS scores, letters of recommendation or student resumes increase their chances of being selected?***

No, Grafton Public Schools uses a blind, random lottery when the number of applicants exceeds the numbers of seats.

***Do families pay tuition for School Choice?***

No, tuition charges are handled through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Families are responsible for paying for any student activity fees, athletic fees, lunch etc.

***Is transportation provided for School Choice students?***

No, transportation to and from school each day is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

***Do I need to reapply every year after my child has been chosen?***

No. Once a child has been accepted as School Choice, he/she is enrolled until they graduate or transfer.

***Can my child transfer back to his/her previous school?***

Yes. Your child can return to their previous school at any time. Please contact the Principal or guidance counselor in your building to arrange the transfer of records. It is important to note should you transfer out of our district as a School Choice student, we cannot hold your seat. We will offer it to the next person on our waiting list.

***Can my child participate in school activities as a School Choice student?***

Yes, School Choice students can participate in athletics, extra curricular clubs. We encourage parents to volunteer as well!

Additionally, School Choice students are held to the same standards, personally and academically, as any other student in the District. District policies apply to ALL students enrolled in our schools.