

NEWAYGO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Schools of Choice

**BIG JACKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NEWAYGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WHITE CLOUD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

In an effort to provide a quality education for all students in the region, public schools in Newaygo County continue to offer a *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program*. The *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* allows parents the opportunity to request that their child(ren) attend any public school in Newaygo County, regardless of where they live. Selection is based on availability and limits.

Some school districts in Newaygo County also participate in the Michigan Department of Education's 105C Schools of Choice Program or individual school-of-choice programs that allow students outside the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency to attend a Newaygo County public school. Please contact individual district superintendents to explore these options.

This brochure is designed to help parents learn about the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* and the guidelines, policies and procedures that have been developed to ensure student success.

Information regarding graduation requirements, application policies, athletics and transportation are included. Please call the superintendent's office of any of the participating schools for further information. An application form is included with this brochure. A separate form must be completed for each child.

The deadline for the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice* application is **June 1, 2016** (105C deadlines are later, generally in August).

District Administration Contacts

Principal's Office
Big Jackson School
4020 13 Mile Road
Paris, MI 49338
(231) 796-8947

Superintendent's Office
Fremont Public Schools
450 E. Pine Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 924-2350

Superintendent's Office
Grant Public Schools
148 S. Elder Ave.
Grant, MI 49327
(231) 834-5621

Superintendent's Office
Hesperia Community Schools
96 S. Division, P.O. Box 338
Hesperia, MI 49421
(231) 854-6185

Superintendent's Office
Newaygo Public Schools
360 S. Mill St., P.O. Box 820
Newaygo, MI 49337
(231) 652-6984

Superintendent's Office
White Cloud Public Schools
555 E. Wilcox, P.O. Box 1000
White Cloud, MI 49349
(231) 689-6820

Newaygo County Schools of Choice Guidelines



The application process for the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* has been designed to guarantee all applicants a fair and equitable opportunity. Parents or guardians should be aware of the application timelines, guidelines, graduation requirements, transportation responsibilities and athletic policies. Listed below are the guidelines regarding the application process.

1. The parents/guardians of a student who prefers to attend a school outside of their resident district must complete a *Newaygo County Schools of Choice* application and return it to the superintendent of their **resident** district.

A student will not be accepted into their choice district until he/she is released from the resident district.

The deadline for applications is **June 1, 2016**. A copy of the application, with response, will be sent to the parents/guardians, the choice school principal, and the superintendent of the choice district no later than August 1, 2016.

2. All transfers under the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* take place at the beginning of the school year. Superintendents shall have discretion to waive the established June 1st timeline in the event of demonstrated extenuating circumstances occurring after this date. (105C deadlines are set and published annually by the participating districts, according to guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Education. Currently Big Jackson, Fremont Public Schools, Hesperia Community Schools, Newaygo Public Schools and White Cloud Public Schools participate in the 105C Schools of Choice Program.)
3. The number of transfers allowed under the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* is determined by space available in each district. The net loss to each building may be limited to two percent (running total) and must be in compliance with the guidelines of the local district's choice plan, or any local board policies.
4. 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. Current choice students do not need to complete an application on an annual basis, but must inform the Superintendent's office of the choice district if they will or will not be returning for the 2016-17 school year.
5. An application form must be completed for each student wishing to participate in the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program*. There are no guarantees of any siblings receiving admission into the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program*, but siblings of choice students will be given priority over other choice requests.
6. Students participating in the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* who wish to return to their home school for the following year, must notify the superintendent's office in both their home district and choice district by June 1.
7. All participants in the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* are expected to attend their school of choice for the entire school year. Requests for student transfers during the school year, back to the student's home district, may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
8. Students who are not currently attending a public school in Newaygo County due to expulsion or dropout must be readmitted to their local school district, attend in their home school district, and

demonstrate success prior to participating in the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program*. The choice district reserves the right to refuse enrollment to a student who has demonstrated disciplinary behavior problems in his/her home district.

9. Parents, guardians, and students desiring to participate in the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* are encouraged to meet with a building administrator or district representative of the choice school to discuss school rules, curriculum, parent involvement, graduation requirements, grade placement, and other school-related issues prior to making application.

Since most high school and middle school class schedules are developed prior to the completion of the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice* application process, students requesting to be transferred to another school district should be aware that not all class requests may be granted. Prior to submitting a *Newaygo County Schools of Choice* application, it is encouraged that the student and his/her parents or guardians meet with a counselor or school administrator at the school of choice to determine class availability.

10. Applications from resident district students under an IEP will not be considered if the choice district is not currently providing the services called for in the IEP.
11. If the number of *Newaygo County Schools of Choice* applications exceeds the limit established by a local board of education for a building, there shall be a random lottery for new applications, supervised by local superintendents, and witnessed by the NC RESA Executive Administrative Assistant.
12. Parents or guardians shall be responsible for all transportation of their child(ren) to and from school outside their district of residence unless arrangements are available through the choice district. (Refer to the transportation section on page 4.)
13. A local district will not charge tuition for students accepted under a choice program.
14. A parent shall not complete a *Newaygo County Schools of Choice* application for any child's placement in more than one building or district at a time.
15. The *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* will continue indefinitely until such time local boards of education take action to cease participation.

Graduation/Promotion Requirements and Curriculum Issues



Each school district in Newaygo County 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 *Newaygo County School of Choice Program*:

1. Participants are required to graduate with the number of credits determined by the district they are attending at the time of graduation.
2. All districts will supply, at the request of parents or guardians, a current listing of graduation requirements for the high school they wish to have their child attend. To receive a copy of graduation requirements, parents or guardians should contact the high school principal of the school of choice.
3. Upon acceptance into the program, a current listing of outcome requirements from that building will be supplied to participants.

4. *Newaygo County Schools of Choice* students may participate in their choice district's summer programs, pending space availability.



Transportation Guidelines

Transportation is a key issue in the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program*. It is the sole responsibility of parents or guardians to transport their child(ren) to and from the choice school. The following is a list of transportation guidelines for the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program*.

1. Parents or guardians will be responsible for transporting students to and from school.
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 and if it is approved by the choice district. Once the child is transported from school to the bus stop it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to provide transportation home from the bus stop. Parents or guardians should also be aware that on those rare occasions when school closes early due to weather, etc., it will also be their responsibility to provide transportation home (from the bus stop) for the child.
3. Parents or guardians will assume the responsibility for the safety of the child at the bus stop.
4. Students participating in the *Newaygo County 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.
5. *Newaygo County Schools of Choice* participants will be expected to arrive at the choice school on time every day.



Athletic Policy

The focus of the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* is based on academics, not athletics. Therefore, students and parents/guardians should be aware that students will follow the choice district's policies for participation in the school's athletic activities.

A student athlete (junior high/middle school or high school) participating in the *Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program* is eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest according to the rules and regulations as defined and governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Each public school Board of Education complies with all federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the United States Department of Education and the Michigan State Department of Education.

Equal Opportunity

It is also the policy of each Board of Education that no person on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, limited English, or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program, employment practice, or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the United States Department of Education or the Michigan State Department of Education.