



Book	BYLAWS AND POLICIES
Section	5000 STUDENTS
Title	ENROLLMENT AND CHOICE PROGRAMS
Number	5120
Status	Active
Legal	IC 20-25-4-11, IC 20-26-11-2(7)
Adopted	November 17, 2020

1) **VISION STATEMENT**

- a. The Board's primary responsibility is to provide equitable access for every Edison School of the Arts student to a high-quality education. To achieve this goal, the Board believes that students should be enrolled in schools in a fair, transparent, and efficient manner.
- b. The Board believes that a high-quality education is most effective in a diverse setting, and that enrollment in choice programs should be implemented in a manner that promotes diversity and avoids the isolation of students on the basis of race, socio- economic status, English proficiency, and other characteristics.
- c. The Board believes that diverse, integrated, and balanced schools have inherent educational value by bringing together different viewpoints and experiences into the classroom, encouraging racial and cultural understanding, expanding opportunities for marginalized students and families, and preparing all students to be active and informed citizens in a racially and culturally diverse democratic society.
- d. The Board authorizes the Executive Director, CEO to allocate resources towards implementing enrollment and choice practices that reflect the Board's vision for creating balanced, diverse enrollment at choice schools and programs. The school practices may include, but are not limited to, targeted recruitment efforts, community outreach for choice schools and programs, and a lottery process that seeks to create diverse, balanced learning environments that proportionally align with the demographics of the school.

2) **GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT**

a. Definitions:

- i. **Neighborhood schools** ± Neighborhood schools are the school of attendance for students residing within a defined geographic area.
 - ii. **Choice programs** ± Choice programs may be defined by a specialized curriculum, innovative themes, unique teaching techniques, or magnet certification. Choice programs may encompass the entire educational offerings of a school or may be defined as a particular curricular sequence or approach to instruction for a cohort of students within a school.
- b. Edison School of the Arts will provide a diverse variety of choice programs deemed necessary to provide excellent educational opportunities to all students. Choice programs shall maintain Indiana academic standards while offering a school instructional program and educational experience.
 - c. Choice programs have a unique opportunity to embody the incredible diversity of the district, enhancing learning opportunities and supporting educational excellence.
 - d. The Board shall certify the school's choice and programs.

3) **APPLICATION FOR CHOICE PROGRAMS**

- a. The Board permits students to apply for attendance at schools other than their neighborhood school based upon criteria established by the district administration. The specific limitations and criteria must be consistent with State and Federal law and include application procedures, including deadlines for application and notification to students, families and principals of choice programs.
- b. Only students wishing to attend a school other than their neighborhood school need apply. Enrolled students will remain at their school of choice without the need to reapply annually.
- c. Applications shall be entered into a random lottery; variables may include proximity, sibling preference, and socio-economic status weighted in the random process.
- d. The administration shall publish the specific parameters of the weighting formula used for the choice application lottery.
- e. The choice application process shall ensure that equal opportunities be available to all persons without regard for race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability, citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other category protected under federal, state, or local law.

4) **ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES**

a. The Executive Director, CEO is directed to promulgate administrative guidelines to define:

- i. capacity of choice programs;
- ii. the choice application process and timeline;
- iii. application and enrollment requirements
- iv. reporting to students and families after the execution of the choice lottery;
- v. reports to the Board on the number of applications received and program and grade-level enrollment in choice programs;
- vi. intra-district transfers among neighborhood schools;
- vii. accommodations for students whose families move to a new attendance zone to complete the course of study available at their school of enrollment prior to a move;
- viii. a strategic transportation plan that is efficient and effective in promoting choice, equity, access, and stability for students and families in all schools; and
- ix. registration and enrollment processes and procedures for neighborhood and choice schools.