



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Do I have to register my child in Kindergarten?** No, it is considered by the Ministry of Education an optional program. As well, parents can defer Kindergarten for one year.
2. **Can my child attend a school other than our neighbourhood school?** Yes, if there is space in the preferred school. The Board believes that students who choose to move to a school other than their home school should give notice of and reason for their wish. Out-of-catchment forms are available at every school as well as the School Board Office.
3. **Where do I register if I want my child to attend an out-of-catchment school?** Parents who wish to register for Kindergarten from an out-of-catchment area may apply to do so by going to the in-catchment school and completing a transfer form.
4. **I filled out a registration form and an out-of-catchment request form. Does this mean my child will go to the school I've requested** Not necessarily. Only after a school's space and resource capabilities have been determined will new "cross boundary" transfer students be approved. **Please note:** If you are approved, there is no guarantee that you can stay at that school in subsequent years. In-catchment students have priority.
5. **I put my registration form in before another family who have already heard their child is accepted. Why haven't I been called?** Preference is given in the following order:
  - a. to students who reside in the catchment area,
  - b. then to students who have siblings currently attending,
  - c. daycare in-catchment,
  - d. full-day/half-day Kindergarten requests, not available at their catchment school
  - e. any other requests.
6. **When will I know if my child is accepted as an out-of-catchment student?** Depending upon the school and the number of out-of-catchment requests, every attempt will be made to notify you by the end of June. Decisions will be based on space and resource capabilities.
7. **Doesn't the Ministry of Education say parents can register children at their school of choice?** No. The BC *School Act*, Division 1, Section 2(2) says "a person may enroll in an educational program provided by a board of a school district and attend any school in British Columbia if
  - a. the person is of school age,
  - b. the person is resident in British Columbia, and
  - c. the board providing the educational program determines that space and facilities are available for the person at the school in which the educational program is made available.
8. **This sounds different than in the past. Why have things changed?** District policy has not changed. School District #62 has always done its best to approve school requests for parents to have children enroll elsewhere in the district.
9. **If my request to have my child attend a different school is approved, will busing be provided?** District policy states that transportation for students who choose to transfer and receive approval will be the responsibility of the parents. Bussing may be available if there is already an established route and there is space available. Priority will be given to students that are out-of-catchment because their school is full.
10. **What if my childcare provider lives in a different school catchment than our family?** Requests are first based on the child's home address and then we go through the out-of-catchment priority process. (See 5. above)
11. **Who will let me know if my out-of-catchment area request has been approved?** The receiving school will let you know once a decision has been made. Requests will be considered if there is space. If at any time you change your mind and wish to attend the neighbourhood school in your catchment area, please contact **BOTH** schools as soon as possible to let them know.
12. **Can I return to my catchment area school at any time if I transfer to an out-of-catchment area school?** Returning to your catchment area school during the school year will only occur if there is space. At the commencement of the school year, priorities for enrollment will apply (see 5. above)
13. **If the district cannot accommodate me at my catchment area school, will I be able to return to this school at any time?** You will have first priority to return to your catchment area school when space is available.