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105c

Schools of



Choice

What are Schools of
How can my child enroll in Schools of
Who can participate in Schools of

Parents and Students Have Educational Options in Gratiot and Isabella Counties

Understanding Schools of Choice

Historically, all districts in the Gratiot and Isabella RESD have participated in Schools of Choice. Schools of Choice is not mandated; districts have the choice to participate.

There are two different types of Schools of Choice participation, limited and unlimited.

- **Limited Participation:** a school determines how many students by grade level it can accommodate. The following districts are limited participation:
 - Beal City Public Schools
 - Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
 - Shepherd Public Schools
- **Unlimited Participation:** a school accepts all students who apply unless a student has been expelled from another district, or has been suspended in the two previous years. The following districts are unlimited participation:
 - Alma Public Schools
 - Ashley Community Schools
 - Breckenridge Public Schools
 - Fulton Schools
 - Ithaca Public Schools
 - St. Louis Public Schools

Important Information for Applicants

1. The Schools of Choice application window for **limited** Schools of Choice will be 30 days, from mid May until mid June. After the window closes if there are more applications than open seats at any grade level, a lottery drawing will be held to select students. Students not initially selected will be added to a waiting list. A second window for any remaining seats will open on the third Monday in August and run through the end of the first week of school.

The Schools of Choice application window for **unlimited** Schools of Choice begins March 15 and will run through the end of the first week of school.
2. Once a student has enrolled in a district under Schools of Choice and continuously attends school in the choice district, the student may remain in the district until they graduate. They do not need to reapply.
3. All participants in the Schools of Choice Program are expected to attend their school of choice for the entire school year. Request for student transfer during the school year back to the student's home district will be granted only under extenuating circumstances and must be approved by both school districts.

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 An application form is available by calling the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District at 989-875-5101, ext. 2337.



Choice

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4. Parents are responsible for the transportation of their child to and from their choice school.
5. A district may not grant or refuse enrollment based on age, except in the case of an applicant for a program not appropriate for his/her age. A district may not grant or refuse enrollment based upon religion, race, color, national origin, sex, height, weight, marital status or athletic ability, or, generally in violation of state or federal law prohibiting discrimination.
6. A district may refuse to enroll an applicant who has been suspended within the preceding two years or who has ever been expelled.
7. Applications for the GIRESD Schools of Choice Program will be available from the participating school districts and GIRESD and should be returned to GIRESD.
8. Participants in Schools of Choice may only request the district and building which he or she would like to attend. Requests for specific teachers will not be allowed.
9. A student athlete (junior high/middle or high school) participating in GIRESD 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).
10. An application form must be completed for each student wishing to participate in Schools of Choice.
11. For additional details regarding the Schools of Choice provisions, see Sections 105 and 105c of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1705 and 388.1705c). If you have questions about participating school districts in your area, please contact Gratiot-Isabella RESD at 989-875-5101 ext. 2337.

GIRESD

The Board of Education of Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District complies with all federal and state laws and regulations of the United States Department of Education and the Michigan State Department of Education.

It is also the policy of Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District Board of Education that no person on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, limited English, or handicap 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.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TDD (989) 875-8720