

School Attendance Area/Waivers

The Board of Education accepts its responsibility for establishing residence attendance areas and pathways in such a way as to facilitate the educational program as well as numerical and racial balance. Advance planning for new sites and buildings or for building renovations for existing buildings will be guided by the following criteria in determining school attendance boundaries.

1. Special educational needs of students
2. Proximity of students to school buildings
3. Safety of students
4. Ages of students served
5. Specific nature of the educational program offered at the school
6. Racial balance
7. Enrollment balance

The Board of Education will employ the principle of controlled attendance areas for school attendance as follows:

1. Criteria 1-7 are considered before implementing 2-11 below.

Elementary

2. Students living in any given elementary school attendance area have first choice for school membership in that area.
3. Where class size is not near or at maximum as defined by Board of Education policy or contract, students whose residence is in other attendance areas may apply for membership in a school that is not in the attendance area of their residence.
4. Boundary line waivers are granted conditionally and are for one year only. However, the waivers will generally be renewed annually unless it is not in the best interest of the district to do so. Renewal applications are not required.
5. When boundary line waivers are granted, the student's middle school and high school pathway shall remain that of the elementary school attendance area of the student's residence -with the exception of those students granted waivers under the racial balance plan.

Exempt from Policy 5117 is Stratford Academy, where movement into and out of Stratford Academy is controlled by the approved Stratford Board of Education Racial Balance Plan and its administrative guidelines.

Secondary

6. Waivers to Stratford's middle schools and high schools are tightly controlled for enrollment and racial balance.
7. Once a waiver is granted to a middle school, the waiver will remain in effect throughout the middle school years. Additionally, students applying for a waiver under the racial balance plan may attend the high school in that same pathway.
8. Once a waiver is granted to a high school student, the waiver will remain in effect until graduation unless the student violates the conditions set forth in the confirming waiver letter resulting in a revocation of the waiver.
9. Applications for boundary waivers must be submitted for consideration prior to May 1 of each year.

All Grades

10. When boundary line waivers are granted, the Board of Education is not responsible for the transportation of the student to school and/or from school to home unless it can be provided without additional cost to the district.
11. In all circumstances, students on waiver to any Stratford school must comply with the rules and regulations of the school or the waiver may be rescinded. Reasonable effort will be made to grant waivers to children whose family members are in attendance at a school.
12. In reference to Item #3 of Policy 5117, the following regulations apply:
 - A. The vast majority of cases where students request placement outside the attendance area of their residence will be acted upon prior to the beginning of the school year.
 - B. No students will be moved after the start of the school year unless there are severe circumstances as judged by the Superintendent of Schools. If a student is to be moved due to those severe circumstances, the following will apply:
 - (1) Movement after the start of a school year will only take place at the close of a marking period.
 - (2) Movement after the start of a school year will not take place unless a conference has been held between the parents, principal, and teachers of the school from which they are requesting leave.
 - (3) Movement after the start of the school year will only take place to a school where the enrollment or the racial balance of the accepting class or school does not adversely affect the enrollment or racial balance of that school or class.
 - C. One year is defined to mean "until the end of the current school year."

D. Students granted a boundary line waiver to an attendance area outside the attendance area of their residence shall agree to return to their elementary school in their area serving their residence if the class size limit for the following year will be exceeded.

Replaces existing undated policy

Approved by the Stratford Board of Education on August 27, 2007

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Return to: Office of the Superintendent, 1000 East Broadway, Stratford, CT 06615

Boundary Line Waiver Request Form

Side One – To be completed by Parent or Guardian of Student.

Student Name (Print clearly):		School ID #:	
Street Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Telephone:
Parent/Guardian Name:			

- Student's home district school (check one):** Chapel Street School Eli Whitney School
 Franklin School Stratford Academy Lordship School Nichols School
 Second Hill Lane School Wilcoxson School Flood Middle School Wooster Middle School
 Bunnell High School Stratford High School

The student is currently attending the _____ grade at _____ School.

For the school year beginning September, 20____, I am requesting that s/he attend the _____ grade
at _____ School.

Reason for Boundary Waiver Request:

I understand that this boundary request form must be returned to the Stratford Board of Education by no later than May 1, prior to the school year for which the boundary request is being made. I also understand that even if granted, this boundary request may be rescinded if (1) the continuance of the waiver will prevent another student from attending his/her home district school, (2) our child/ward behaves in a manner that is disruptive to the waiver school or (3) it is in the best interest of the Stratford Board of Education to do so in order to meet essential district-wide goals (e.g. racial balancing).

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____