

# Flagler School District



## School Choice Plan 2018-2019

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## Flagler School District Controlled Open Enrollment Plan:

### A. Background

Flagler School District serves approximately 12,700 students in grades Pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The district includes five elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools, and iFlagler; a virtual program recognized by the Florida Department of Education as one of the top virtual programs in the state. Flagler Technical Institute is also a component of Flagler Schools, offering post secondary opportunities in a variety of certification programs.

Flagler schools strives to be a premier learning organization and consistently seeks innovative methods to transform instruction of state standards and maximize student opportunities to develop skills necessary to be personally and professionally successful in a global society. The district's Digital Learning Movement has implemented one to one technology in all grades. Grades seven through twelve are issued Macbook Airs, grades four through six are issued iPads, and grades kindergarten through third access macbook carts in each classroom.

Flagship programs have been developed in each school for grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. Flagler School Flagships offer opportunities to discover paths that lead students from classroom to career success. Students are provided with personalized learning choices so that they may explore and grow in industries aligned with Flagler County's economic development and global demand such as Agronomy, Aerospace, Green Technologies, Engineering, Business and Finance, Marine Science, and Leadership Skills.

The district has maintained a very liberal student transfer policy which allows parents to request a transfer for a variety of reasons.

### B. Purpose

Flagler County Public Schools mission is to ensure educational success through high expectations and innovative thinking in a safe learning environment to empower students to reach their full potential as responsible, ethical, and productive citizens in a diverse and changing world. The School Board continues to use school choice as a strategy in partnership with parents in providing appropriate quality educational opportunities when possible.

### C. School Choice Programs

At the elementary, middle, and high school levels, the Flagler School District utilizes the following programs:

#### 1. Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Act School of Origin:

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was originally passed in 1987 and reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In order to promote school stability, appropriate exceptions and accommodations will be made to minimize the barriers related to student assignment for students identified as eligible for services through the Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Act.

- a. Qualifying student's shall continue their education in school of origin for the duration of homelessness, and until the end of the academic year in which the student becomes permanently housed. School of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for feeder school programs. It shall be presumed that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest, unless contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.
- b. A written explanation must be provided if the local education agency determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth. The explanation must include the reasons for determination and a statement regarding the right to appeal.

#### 2. John B. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program (FL Statute Rule 6A-6.0970, F.A.C. June 14, 2015):

The McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, originally created in 1999, is established to provide the option to attend a public school other than the one to which assigned, or to provide a scholarship to a private school of choice, for students with disabilities for whom:

- a. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) has been written in accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education; or
- b. A 504 accommodation plan has been issued.

NOTE: Students with disabilities include K-12 students who are documented as having an intellectual disability; a speech or language impairment; a hearing impairment, including deafness; a visual impairment, including blindness; a dual sensory impairment; an orthopedic impairment, an other health impairment, an emotional or behavioral disability; a specific learning disability, including, but not limited to, dyslexia, dyscalculia, or developmental aphasia; a traumatic brain injury; a developmental delay; or autism spectrum disorder.

3. Every Student Succeeds Act - Foster Care School Of Origin:

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Originally enacted in 1965 and last reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act in 2002, ESEA's mission is "to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education." ESEA/ESSA now contains key protections for students in foster care to promote school stability and success, and required collaboration with child welfare partners.

- a. Under the ESSA, School districts must immediately enroll students in Foster Care in school, even if they do not have the documents usually required for enrollment, such as school records, medical records or proof of residency.
- b. Students in Foster Care have a right remain in their school of origin if deemed to be in the student's best interest;
- c. Students who choose to enroll in school where the Foster Care is located, must be enrolled immediately, even if they do not bring the records usually required for enrollment with them.

4. Virtual Programs:

Pursuant to 1002.45, F.S. Flagler School District public school students in grades kindergarten through grade twelve may participate in part-time or full-time virtual instruction programs.

5. Dual Enrollment

The dual enrollment program is defined as the enrollment of an eligible secondary student or home education student in a postsecondary course creditable toward high school completion and a career and technical certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree. A student who is enrolled in postsecondary instruction that is not creditable toward a high school diploma may not be classified as a dual enrollment student.

6. Controlled School Choice for In-County transfers

- a. Applications for school choice may be obtained at each school site and on the district web site. Applications must be completed by a custodial parent or court-awarded guardian. A separate application must be completed for each child requesting a transfer.
- b. Applications are to be submitted to the receiving school.
- c. Applications for school choice are accepted at any time, but it is recommended that moves should be made at the end of grading periods. Applications for the following school year may be submitted beginning March 15th. The district will review current

enrollment on a monthly basis for capacity and to determine that a socio-economic and demographic balance has been maintained, as well as adherence to federal desegregation requirements. Flagler County residents granted school choice in a previous year do not need to apply yearly as long as enrollment is being maintained in the school to which choice was originally granted. The desire to move to a different school, or transitions from elementary to middle school, or middle school to high school requires a new application.

- d. The eligibility of high school students may be affected under the regulations of the Florida High School Activities Association as defined in policy 404, which aligns with current state statute. Athletic eligibility will be monitored by the school to which the student is assigned, if applicable.
- e. A transfer request will not be processed for a student for whom disciplinary action is pending.
- f. If a student moves to a School of Choice and displays issues with attendance, grades, or disciplinary actions the principal may make the decision to have the student returned to their zoned school. Prior to revoking a school choice variance the school will document a minimum of (3) good faith efforts to provide interventions and enlist parental/guardian support for the identified areas of concern. If a student is being returned to their zoned school due to a revocation communication should occur between the schools to establish supports for the student. No requests for revocation will be considered during the final 20 days of the school year.
- g. Students accepted through the application process into the International Baccalaureate Program or i3 New Tech Academy who do not reside in the zone for these programs do not need to complete a School Choice Application. Their acceptance into these comprehensive programs will serve as their approved choice variance.
- h. All School Choice Requests for Flagler School District will be monitored for class size as per Florida's Constitutional Amendment for Class Size. Schools that are designated "frozen due to capacity" have reached their total permanent capacity and requests cannot be approved. Schools that are designated "frozen due to class size" have exceeded their teaching allocations and requests will be considered based on the availability in the specific grade level.

7. Controlled School Choice Plan for Out of County Transfer

- a. Applications for transfers between school districts may be found on the district website.
- b. Applications must be submitted to the district office of Student and Community Engagement.
- c. Applications can be submitted starting on March 15th of each year for the following school year.
- ~~d. Requests to attend a Flagler County School for students who reside in another county will require a release from the student's county of residence. The approved release must be received prior to the submission of the out of county transfer being put before~~

~~the Flagler School Board for approval. The Flagler School Board meets the third Tuesday of each month.~~

- e. Applications for school choice from out of county must be submitted every year.
- f. The eligibility of high school students may be affected under the regulations of the Florida High School Activities Association, as defined in policy 404. Procedures for athletic eligibility will be initiated by the school to which the student is assigned, if applicable.
- g. No request for transfer will be processed for a student for whom disciplinary action is pending.
- h. If a student moves to a School of Choice and displays issues with attendance, grades, or disciplinary actions the principal may make the decision to have the student returned to their zoned school. Prior to revoking a school choice variance the school will document a minimum of (3) good faith efforts to provide interventions and enlist parental/guardian support for the identified areas of concern. If a student is being returned to their zoned school due to a revocation, communication should occur between the schools to establish supports for the student. No requests for revocation will be considered during the final 20 days of the school year.
- i. All School Choice Requests for Flagler School District will be monitored for class size as per Florida's Constitutional Amendment for Class Size. Schools that are designated "frozen due to capacity" have reached their total permanent capacity and requests cannot be approved. Schools that are designated "frozen due to class size" have exceeded their teaching allocations and requests will be considered based on the availability in the specific grade level.

#### D. Transportation

- 1. Florida Statutes and Administrative Rules require that transportation be provided for students living more than two miles from their school assignment.
- 2. Transportation will be provided by the district for students assigned to Exceptional Student Education Programs not available in the student's zoned school as determined by their IEP.
- 3. Transportation will be provided by the district for a secondary student enrolled in a comprehensive program not offered at their zoned school. (ex. IB, i3, ...)
- 4. Transportation will be provided for eligible students for whom school of origin is determined to be in the student's best interest by the school district's McKinney-Vento Liason or for foster children as determined by the established process aligned with requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- 5. Transportation to a school outside the student's assigned school zone that does not meet the aforementioned criteria are the responsibility of the parent.

#### E. Application Process

1. Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Act School Choice Option

If a parent informs the school or district (through the enrollment process) that they are claiming homeless status, or it is determined by the district from information provided by the parent via the resident information survey completed annually that the student could possibly be eligible for services relating to the Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Act, the student is referred to the Flagler School District Homeless Liason to coordinate services.

2. McKay Scholarship Program

Parents may file intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program on the [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org) website by clicking on the McKay Scholarship link, selecting the "Parents" button, and then the link titled "Apply for a McKay Scholarship" located on the quick navigation bar on the left-hand side of the screen. If additional assistance is needed, parents may contact the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at 1-800-447-1636.

Additional information may be found at:

<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/mckay/mckay-faqs.stml>

\*Applications received after February 1st will be for the following school year.

3. ESSA Foster Care

When the Department of Children and Families or Local Child Welfare Agency notifies a school that identified student(s) is/ are entering foster care or a foster care change of placement is being made, a best interest determination meeting shall occur between the school of origin and the foster care agency to determine school placement. If it is determined that the student should remain in the school of origin, the district will coordinate transportation from the foster home to the school of origin. The Child Welfare Agency shall provide interim transportation from the foster home to the school of origin during the time the routes are being established. This time frame is usually 48-72 hours.

4. Virtual Instruction Program

Pursuant to 1002.45, F.S. Flagler School District public school students in grades kindergarten through grade twelve may participate in part-time or full-time virtual instruction programs. Connections Learning provides instruction for students in grades K-6. Dates for full-time enrollment will be published on the district web site annually. Part-Time enrollment is also available. Students who wish to register for part-time K-6 courses need to meet with their school guidance counselor. The district Virtual Instruction Program for students in grades 7-12 is iFlagler, a franchise of Florida Virtual School (FLVS). iFlagler uses the same courses as FLVS, but with local teachers who are employed by Flagler County Public Schools. Visit [iFlagler.org](http://iFlagler.org) to enroll, or for more information, please call the district Virtual Instruction Program office at 437-7526, ext. 3118.



5. Dual Enrollment

Students interested in dual enrollment need to contact their school guidance counselor.

6. Parent Request for School Choice

Flagler School District shall considering the following when processing school choice applications. Students residing in the district shall not be displaced by a student from another district who is seeking enrollment through the open enrollment provisions. When considering school choice applications preferential treatment shall be provided for: dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders, children who have moved due to foster care placement in a different school zone, children who have moved due to a court-ordered change in custody as a result of separation or divorce, or children who have moved due to the serious illness or death of a custodial parent. If applications for school choice exceed the capacity at a school, applicants will be placed on a waiting list and if seats open up a stratified lottery will be utilized to maintain socioeconomic and demographic balance.

F. Application Timelines

Applications may begin being submitted March 15th for the following school year. Applications can be submitted at any time after this, but it is recommended that transitions due to choice applications submitted during the school year occur at the end of grading periods.

G. Appeals

Flagler School District makes every effort to accommodate all school choice requests . If a variance request is denied a parent or guardian may appeal the decision of the school district by submitting a written appeal to the Executive Director of Student and Community Engagement within one week of receiving notice that they have been denied school choice. The appeal will be reviewed and the findings presented to the parent within two weeks of receiving the appeal notice.