

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS

School attendance areas for each school are established by the School Board. Students shall attend the school in the attendance area in which they reside and to which they are assigned, unless special permission is granted by the Superintendent/Designee.

Attendance areas will be established based upon the following factors:

- the capacity of the schools;
- the number of children of school age living in the area;
- the natural boundaries, city limits, and major traffic arteries;
- the safety of the students going to and from school;
- the exceptional educational needs of the student; and
- the need to provide cultural, racial, and economic balance.

Changes in attendance areas will be determined by the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent based on the need to provide for the orderly administration of the schools, the competent instruction of the students, and the health, safety, best interests, and general welfare of all students. A public hearing will be held prior to changes in school attendance areas.

Under no circumstances may a family maintain two residences for school attendance purposes. It is the obligation of the school to know the complete residence status of each student and to see that all comply with these requirements. Any change in residence must be bona fide. Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residence depends upon the facts of each case, but in order for a change of residence to be considered bona fide, at least the following facts must exist: (1) the original residence must be abandoned as a residence—that is, sold, rented or disposed of as a residence—and must not be used as residence by any member of the family, (2) the entire family must make the change and take with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances, (3) the change must be made with the intent that it is permanent.

If at any time during the school year a student's address changes, confirmation of the address is needed to assure it's within the school attendance area. If parents wish for their student(s) to remain in their original school after moving to another schools' attendance area, they should submit a letter to the Superintendent's Designee requesting their child to remain at their current school.

Request for Transfer

Students may be granted permission to attend schools in another attendance area under one of the following conditions:

- A. A student whose parent or guardian changes residence after the end of the first semester from one school attendance area to another school attendance area in the

county may continue in the school in which currently enrolled for the remainder of the current school year if the parent or guardian so desires. Parents submit a written request to the Superintendent/Designee. Student must be classified by the school division as a student in good standing

- B. A parent or guardian who is buying/building a home within another school attendance area in the Division and furnishes appropriate documentation (i.e., building permit, contract, completion date, geographic location, letter from builder), may be permitted to enroll a student in the new school serving the new district if they will reside in the new district for the majority of the school year.
- C. A parent or guardian who is a resident of Albemarle County and an employee of Albemarle County Public Schools or local government departments paid by Albemarle County payroll department may request a transfer of his child to another school. After consultation with both principals (or the department head) involved, the Superintendent/Designee may approve the transfer to accommodate the parent's work schedule. Approval of any request is discretionary and based upon the supervisor's recommendation and availability of space in the new school.
- D. Seniors whose parents or guardian move from one attendance area to another attendance area in the school division after the end of the first semester of their junior year may be permitted to complete their final year in the high school they last attended. Student must be classified by the school division as a student in good standing.
- E. A student may be permitted to attend Albemarle County Public Schools if a parent with joint physical custody (papers required) resides in Albemarle County and the student resides with this parent for the majority of the school year.
- F. School transfers should be considered for the welfare of the student and/or school division and not for athletic and/or activity purposes.
- G. Whenever any student has been the victim of any crime against the person as set forth in Virginia Code Sections 18.2-30 *et seq.*, and such crime was committed by another student attending classes in the school, or by any employee of the School Board, or by any volunteer, contract worker or other person who regularly performs services in the school, or if the crime was committed upon school property or on any school bus owned or operated by the school division, the student (if an emancipated minor) or his parent(s) shall be permitted, upon written request, to transfer to another comparable school within the school division, if space is available.
- H. For purposes of this policy, "victim" shall mean any student who has been a victim of crime as stated herein and who has suffered physical, psychological, or economic harm as a direct result of the commission of such crime.

- I. After consultation with both principals involved, the Superintendent/ designee may approve a transfer request for curriculum requirements, specific medical reasons or extraordinary reasons.

Requests for transfers to schools other than the one serving the student's residential area may be approved only on an annual basis.

Students found to be enrolled in Albemarle County Public Schools who do not reside within the correct school attendance area will be required to attend the school attendance area they reside in.

If a person makes a false statement about a child's residency for the purpose of enrolling the child in a county school or avoiding tuition charges, the person maybe guilty of a class 4 misdemeanor. The person may also be required to pay tuition for the time the child was enrolled in the school division.

Partial transportation for a student attending a school other than the one that normally serves the student's attendance area may be provided on a space available basis on an established bus route from an established bus stop. It will be the responsibility of the parent to transport the student to and from the appropriate bus stop. If such transportation cannot be provided, it will be the responsibility of the parent to arrange transportation to and from school.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
Amended: December 13, 1993; July 28, 1997; May 8, 2000; March 13, 2003; May 22, 2008; August 22, 2013

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sections 22.1-3, 22.1-3.3