NC RESA

NEWAYGO COUNTY SCHOOLS OF CHOICE PROGRAM

Big Jackson School District
Fremont Public Schools
Grant Public Schools
Hesperia Community Schools
Newaygo Public Schools
White Cloud Public Schools

NEWAYGO COUNTY SCHOOLS OF CHOICE PLAN (NC-SOC)

To provide a quality education for all students within Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency (NC RESA), public school districts within NC RESA will continue to offer a Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program (NC-SOC). The NC-SOC allows parents the opportunity to request that their child(ren) attend any public school within NC RESA, regardless of where they live within the boundaries of NC RESA.

SECTION 105C PLAN

Some school districts in NC RESA also participate in the Michigan Department of Education's Section 105c Schools of Choice Program that allow students who live outside of NC RESA boundaries to attend an NC RESA public school. Please contact individual district superintendent offices to explore options under the Section 105c program.

NC-SOC APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process has been designed to guarantee all applicants a fair and equitable opportunity. Parents/guardians should be aware of the application process, guidelines, graduation requirements, transportation, and athletic policies prior to applying.

NC-SOC PROGRAM DETAILS

- Application window opens May 1. Deadline to receive applications is no later than the first Friday of the next school year.
- A student released from their resident district as a NC-SOC student is allowed to remain in the NC-SOC district as a non-resident student until his/her class graduates or enrollment is broken.
- All NC-SOC students are expected to attend their non-resident NC-SOC district for the entire school year. Requests for students transferring back to his/her resident district during the school year may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
- Students who are not currently attending a public school district within NC RESA due to expulsion or dropout must be re-admitted to their resident district, attend school/ classes within their resident school district for the duration of the school year, and demonstrate success prior to applying to participate in the NC-SOC program. The NC-SOC non-resident school district reserves the right to refuse acceptance of a student who has demonstrated disciplinary behavior problems within his/her resident district at the time of his/her initial application.
- Parents, guardians, and students wishing to participate in the NC-SOC program are encouraged to visit the non-resident school district to discuss school-related details like graduation requirements prior to submitting an application.

Step 1

Parents/Guardians complete a NC-SOC application and return it to the Superintendent's Office of their **resident** district. A student will not be accepted into their choice district until he/she is released from the resident district.

Step 2

A copy of the application with the resident district's response will be sent to the choice (or non-resident) district for final processing.

Step 3

The choice (or non-resident) district will process the application and send a copy to the parents/guardians and the superintendent of the resident district within two (2) weeks of processing.

The Schools of Choice program helps parents explore the option of sending their children to a school district other than the one in which they live.

NC-SOC PROGRAM DETAILS, CONT.

- A NC-SOC non-resident school district will not charge tuition for students accepted under the NC-SOC program.
- The NC-SOC program will continue indefinitely until such time local boards of education take action to cease participation.

TRANSPORTATION

It is the sole responsibility of parents/guardians to transport their child(ren) to and from the NC-SOC non-resident school.

Parents or guardians may have the option to drive their child to a pre-approved bus stop in the NC-SOC non-resident school district if space is available on the bus and if it is approved by the NC-SOC non-resident school district. Once the child is transported from school to the bus stop it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to provide transportation home from the bus stop.

If bussing is made available by the non-resident district, parents or guardians will assume the responsibility for the safety of the child(ren) at the bus stop.

NC-SOC participants will be expected to arrive at the NC-SOC non-resident school on time every day.

ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

The focus of NC-SOC programs is based on academics, not athletics. Therefore, students and parents/guardians should be aware that students will follow the NC-SOC non-resident school district's policies for participation in the school's athletic activities.

A student athlete (junior high/middle school or high school) participating in the NC-SOC program is eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest according to the rules and regulations as defined and governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Graduation/Promotion and Curriculum Guidelines

Each school district in NC-RESA has developed a curriculum that is based on the Michigan Merit Curriculum. In addition, each district has its own locally approved grading system and graduation requirements.

- Participants are required to graduate with the number of credits determined by the district they are attending at the time of graduation.
- All districts will supply, at the request of parents or guardians, a current listing of graduation requirements for the high school they wish to have their child attend. To receive a copy of graduation requirements, parents or guardians should contact the high school principal of the choice district.
- NC-SOC non-resident students may participate in their NC-SOC non-resident school district's summer programs, pending space availability.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

it is the policy of each Board of Education that no person on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, limited English, or disability 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.

WHAT IS SECTION 105C?

This program allows students who live outside of the NC RESA boundaries to attend a public school district located Newaygo County.

SECTION 105C PROGRAM DETAILS

- Refer to the school district's website for information on whether they participate, application deadlines, and how many open seats are offered under this program.
- The resident district's approval is not required for enrolling in an NC RESA district.
- For students applying under a special education IEP, the choice district must enter into a written cooperative agreement with the special education pupil's resident district as to the payment of added costs associated with the pupil's programs and how services will be handled. The written agreement shall address how the agreement will be amended in the event of significant changes in the cost or level of special education programs or services required by the pupil.
- If a non-resident pupil was enrolled under Section 105c and that pupil subsequently is determined eligible for special education services, the district must enter into a written cooperative agreement with the special education pupil’s resident district as to the payment of added costs for programs and services.
- If it is determined that a pupil is eligible for special education services prior to the pupil being enrolled under Section 105c by the non-resident district for the first time, and the non-resident district and resident district fail to reach a written agreement regarding the coverage of added costs of special education programs and services for the pupil, the pupil shall not be enrolled.
- All NC-SOC students are expected to attend their non-resident NC-SOC district for the entire school year. Requests for students transferring back to his/her resident district during the school year may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
- A district is not required to provide transportation for a non-resident student enrolled in the district under Section 105c or for a resident student enrolled in another district under 105c.
- At the time of enrollment, a district shall provide to the parent/guardian information on available transportation to and from the school.

SECTION 105C APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1
Review the choice district's website to confirm they are participating in Section 105c.

Step 2
Parents/Guardians complete a NC-SOC application (selecting the option of 105c) for each child and return it to the Superintendent's Office of their choice or non-resident district.