Dear District 51 Families,

The School of Choice application window for the 2020-2021 school year will open at **10 a.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020.** Families can submit an application at [www.d51schools.org/schoolofchoice](http://www.d51schools.org/schoolofchoice) until 4 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020. The previous date of March 2 has been moved back to March 9 so discussion about Fruita area boundary changes can occur before the School of Choice window begins.

Board policy [JCA/JFBB](#) and regulation [JCA/JFBB-R](#) state that although the Board of Education endorses the neighborhood school concept and makes decisions based on student population within the attendance areas of residence, parents/guardians of students may apply for a School of Choice or Transfer Request to attend a school outside of the student’s regular attendance boundaries. School of Choice does not apply to schools or programs with separate application processes, including

- Dual Immersion Academy
- New Emerson Elementary
- Independence Academy
- Juniper Ridge Community School
- Mesa Valley Community School
- The Challenge Program at East Middle School
- The International Baccalaureate Programme at Palisade High School
- R5 High School
- Grand River Academy

All applications will be time-stamped and spots will be awarded based on availability at the requested school in the requested grade after factoring in projected enrollment for students in the designated attendance area. Please note that transportation is **NOT** provided for students attending a School of Choice school.

Applying for School of Choice

1. To fill out an application for School of Choice, visit [www.d51schools.org/schoolofchoice](http://www.d51schools.org/schoolofchoice). Applications will be available starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020 and will be submitted via ParentVUE in electronic form only.
   - If you have a ParentVUE account, log in prior to the School of Choice window to confirm your access.
   - If you have a student enrolled in District 51 and do not have a ParentVUE account, please go to your student’s school and ask the school to help you create an account.
   - If you are a parent/guardian of a child who has never been enrolled in a District 51 school or D51 preschool program, and would like to apply for School of Choice, you will be able to create an account as of February 28, 2020. Click here to go to ParentVUE and create an account.
2. Access the School of Choice forms by clicking on the button located on the bottom of the page at www.d51schools.org/schoolofchoice (available on March 9 at 10 a.m.)

3. Complete the application and submit. Applications will be marked with the date and time upon the submission of the electronic form.

4. All students wanting to attend an out of area school for the 2020-2021 school year must submit a School of Choice application unless the student is continuing at the same school in which a School of Choice was granted last year, and space is available. If your student is changing levels (elementary to middle school, or middle school to high school) and would like to attend the feeder school for their School of Choice school, an application will need to be submitted.

5. If you do not have access to the internet, please go to your student’s school office during school hours to fill out the application.

Once the application is received, prioritized waiting lists are created for each school. School of Choice placement depends on space availability and the date and time of the application. Each school in District 51 has established a capacity for the total school, each grade level, and for programs at the school. As such, a school may have space available at one grade or program, but not another.

After the March 27, 2020 deadline, the building principal will notify the parent/guardian via email of their application acceptance or denial. All emails will be sent on April 10, 2020. If a parent/guardian receives notice of acceptance, they must sign and return the letter of commitment no later than April 30, 2020 to be accepted into the School of Choice school.

Following the School of Choice application window, parents/guardians can apply for a Transfer Request as outlined in Board Policy JCA/JFBB and regulation JACA/JFBB-R.

If you have any questions, please contact Jo Pifer at 970-254-5323.

Thank you,

Mesa County Valley School District 51