EXCEPTIONS TO SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT
DUE TO ATTENDANCE ZONE CHANGE

All students who have been reassigned to a new or existing school in an attendance zone change under Policy 6350, “Changing School Attendance Zones,” will be expected to attend the school to which they have been reassigned upon the opening of the new school and/or the attendance zone change taking effect.

A. Exceptions to School Assignment Due to Attendance Zone Change

1. **Rising Seniors.** Students who will be entering grade twelve (rising seniors) at the time of the implementation of an attendance zone change shall remain at their current school of assignment through graduation. It is the established tradition of the Loudoun County School Board to not open new high schools with a senior class.

2. **Siblings of Rising Seniors.** Students who are already attending high school with an older sibling who is a rising senior may be granted permission by the School Board to voluntarily remain at their current school of assignment (grandfathered) to enable them to continue attending high school with their older sibling(s) and remain at that same high school through graduation. Grade nine (rising freshmen) siblings beginning high school, however, will need to apply for and be granted special permission under School Board Policy 8-20, “School Assignment,” to attend freshman year at the high school of their older sibling who is a rising senior.

3. **Other Grandfathering.** Students who will be entering grade eleven (rising juniors), grade eight or grade five at the time of the implementation of an attendance zone change, may be granted permission by the School Board to voluntarily remain at their current school of assignment (grandfathered) in order to provide greater educational continuity for those students and/or to avoid recurring school changes for the student.

4. **Early Attendance.** Students reassigned to an existing school may be granted permission by the School Board to voluntarily begin attendance at their reassigned school prior to the attendance zone change officially taking effect in order to better balance enrollment between existing schools and provide greater educational continuity for those students.

B. **Process.** One of the following processes will be used by the School Board in taking any action related to the potential grandfathering of students at their current school of assignment or allowing students to attend an existing school to which they have been reassigned prior to the attendance zone change officially taking effect:

1. **Early Decision, Pre Survey.** As soon as reasonably possible following a school rezoning change decision by the School Board, staff will provide an analysis of the impact of the projected school enrollment of such grandfathering or early attendance to the School Board for possible early decision.
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2. Decision Resulting from a Survey, Post Survey. Alternatively, the School Board may choose to wait to make such a decision until after a survey can be conducted of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of any or all potentially eligible students to determine their interest in being voluntarily grandfathered or gaining early attendance to the existing school to which they have been reassigned. Surveys are typically conducted within a year prior to the opening of the new school and/or the attendance zone change is due to take effect, unless related to early attendance.

C. Mandatory Survey Identification. Only those students who have been identified through the survey process and been granted permission by the School Board may be voluntarily grandfathered or gain early attendance to an existing school. Students not enrolled at the time of surveying may still be granted permission to be grandfathered under this policy if sufficient capacity is determined to be available by the school division prior to the start of the school year. Students who qualify for grandfathering or early attendance but missed the survey deadline may be granted permission by staff to be grandfathered or given early attendance at an existing school, if doing so is consistent with actions taken by the School Board. Staff decisions regarding mandatory survey identification may be appealed to the School Board following the procedures in Policy 2350, “Appeal of Administrative Decisions.”

D. Exception Approval. Grandfathered students or those given permission for early attendance through this policy shall remain at the school to which they have been grandfathered through graduation or their completion of studies at that educational level. Such permission is contingent upon the grandfathered student being in compliance with school rules and regulations.

E. Approval Rescission. A grandfathered student, who subsequently wants to rescind the permission granted with this policy and return/transfer to the student’s regular school of assignment, must make such request in writing through the Division of Planning Services.

F. Virginia High School League. Identifying and evaluating all other ramifications of permission granted through this policy is the responsibility of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), including but not limited to Virginia High School League (VHSL) Handbook rules that are based upon a student’s school assignment.

G. Transportation. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a grandfathered student or a student offered early attendance through this policy must commit to provide a means of reliable transportation for the student to and from school for the duration of the student’s attendance at the grandfathered school, as transportation of the student may not be provided by the school division in accordance with Policy 6210, “Student Transportation.” Rising juniors who are grandfathered may be offered transportation for their junior year on a space-available basis only, if transportation is being provided for rising seniors.
H. Request Outside of This Policy. Outside the survey process, any other student seeking to remain at a current school after being reassigned to another school or seeking to gain early attendance to a reassigned existing school following an attendance zone change must do so through Policy 8-20, “School Assignment,” or another applicable policy of the School Board.

[Former Policy 8-22]
Adopted: 1/23/01
Revised: 12/13/11, 10/22/13, 3/11/14, 4/28/15
Current Revision: 1/23/18

Cross Ref: Policy 2350, Appeal of Administrative Decisions
Policy 6530, Changing School Attendance Zones
Policy 6210, Student Transportation
Policy 8-20, School Assignment