

2021-22  
School Year

# 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.

## ANNUAL RELEASE FOR STUDENTS WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE NC RESA SERVICE AREA

An approved annual release allows students who live outside of the NC RESA boundaries to attend a public school district located in Newaygo County for the current school year. The release must be approved by both the resident superintendent and non-resident superintendents. The annual release program is only for students who reside outside of the NC RESA service area.



## 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

- No more than 5% of a grade level may be released from the resident district.
- There is no application deadline for the NC-SOC Plan.
- 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.
- NC-SOC students do not need to complete an annual application, but must inform the Superintendent's office of the NC-SOC non-resident district if they will remain in the non-resident district or will not be returning for the following school year by **June 1**.
- 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 readmitted 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.
- Applications for special education students with an IEP will not be considered if the NC-SOC non-resident school district is not currently providing the services or program required for his/her IEP.

### 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.**



# Newaygo County Schools of Choice Program Details

## 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 AN ANNUAL RELEASE?

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



### ANNUAL RELEASE DETAILS

- The annual release program is only for students who reside outside of the NC RESA service area and who live in an ISD contiguous to the choice (or non-resident) district.
- An approved annual release form is valid for the current school year. A new release form must be completed and approved each year.
- Approval is required from both the resident district and non-resident district superintendents.
- A district is not required to provide transportation for a non-resident student enrolled in the district under an annual release.
- At the time of enrollment, the district shall provide to the parent/guardian information on available transportation, if any, to and from the school.

## ANNUAL RELEASE APPLICATION PROCESS

### Step 1

Parents/Guardians complete the Annual Release application and submits it to the Superintendent's Office of their **resident** district.

### Step 2

The resident district processes the Annual Release application and delivers it to the choice (or non-resident district) within two weeks.

### Step 3

The choice (or non-resident) district processes the application and sends a copy to both the parent/guardian and resident district.