



What Every Elementary School Parent Needs To Know About...

Caps/Transfers/Clusters 2009-2010

Return AGR Card As Soon As Possible

Parents, it is important to tell your neighborhood school that your child plans to attend that elementary school next year. **Return the attached Age, Grade, Residence (AGR) card as soon as possible. Priority registration ends April 23, 2009.** If you have neighbors or friends who plan to enroll elementary children in NISD for the first time, please pass on this information.

WHY? To Ensure Your Child's Enrollment

The District-wide Cap/Transfer/Cluster Plan continues in effect next school year. Because of growing enrollment, state-mandated class size requirement, and not enough classrooms, many schools lack space. When the maximum number of students per grade level is reached given the number of teachers planned, newly enrolling students will be transferred to a nearby *cluster school*. By enrolling now, and attending the first day of class next fall, your child is more likely to have a space in your neighborhood school, and not be transferred.

Transfers to Cluster Schools

Students enrolling late or failing to show up the first day of school may become subject to transfer to a nearby *cluster school*. The 13 cluster schools, geographically located throughout the District, are: Brauchle, Braun Station, Cody, Colonies North, Evers, Langley, May, Meadow Village, Michael, Scobee, Thornton, Timberwilde, and Villarreal elementary schools. These schools will receive the overflow from surrounding schools.

Transfers will usually affect only new students, not returning students, unless the returning students do not attend the first day of school, or unless the student's parents do not confirm by noon on the second day that the student will be enrolling. Students who are transferred one year are not usually subject to caps the following year unless the enrollment at the home campus has not decreased enough to accommodate all the capped students. Brothers or sisters of students subject to transfer can either transfer or remain at their neighborhood school. On rare occasions, it may be impossible to accommodate all siblings in the same school.

Transportation

Northside ISD provides student transportation to *cluster schools*. Beginning at least by the third day of school, neighborhood pick up and delivery will be provided for transferred students attending *cluster schools*.

Return to Home Campus

During the first week of school, while enrollments stabilize, capped students are expected and strongly encouraged to return to their home campus to fill vacancies which invariably occur. After the first week of school, parents have the option to remain at the cluster campus or enroll in their home attendance school as attrition occurs. However, even during the first week of school, if a hardship were to occur and the cluster principal approves, they may remain.

If your plans change during the summer or you need additional information, **call your school as soon as possible.**

RESERVE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE NOW!

- Tell your neighborhood school what your enrollment intentions are for next year by returning your completed AGR card as soon as possible.
- Make sure your child is present on the first day of school.



Caps/Transfers/Clusters Q & A

Can my child return to the home campus when an opening occurs?

Yes. Capped students may return to their neighborhood campus if an opening occurs. The students' enrollment date determines the priority for return.

Does my child have to return to the home campus if an opening occurs?

During the first week of school, while enrollments stabilize, capped students are expected and strongly encouraged to return to their home campus to fill vacancies which invariably occur. After the first week of school, parents have the option to remain at the cluster campus or enroll in their home attendance school as attrition occurs. However, even during the first week of school, if a hardship were to occur and the cluster principal approves, they may remain.

What about brothers and sisters in grades which are not "capped?"

When a student must be transferred to a *cluster school*, parents have the option of sending all other siblings to the *cluster school*, or keeping them at their neighborhood school.

How will my child(ren) get to the cluster school?

Northside provides student transportation to cluster schools. Beginning at least by the third day of school, neighborhood pick up and delivery will be provided for transfer students attending cluster schools.

Which school supply list should we use?

In most cases, Northside supply lists are similar enough that materials purchased for one school will be acceptable at the other. If this does not seem to be the case, please contact the principal at the school your child attends to see what adjustments can be made.

Where do I call for more information?

You should first call your neighborhood school.

You may also call the Elementary Administration Department, 397-8640.

