

**ADMISSION OR REJECTION OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS-
ASSIGNMENT OF RESIDENT STUDENTS**

This policy is enacted in compliance with SDCL 13-28-44, and together with relevant information about the Garretson School District, schools, programs, other policies, and procedures, is available to any person so requesting orally or in writing. Its purpose is to establish relevant standards pertaining to the admission and assignment of both resident and nonresident students in the Garretson School District. For the purpose of this policy, the term "resident district" means the district in which a student has legal residence as determined by SDCL 13-28-9. The term "nonresident district" means any district in which a nonresident student seeks to enroll.

Generally speaking, the Garretson School Board will accept students from other districts wishing to enroll, provided the Garretson School District's resources and facilities can accommodate the students without adversely affecting the quality of its educational program. This determination will be based upon standards adopted by the Garretson School District Board of Education, herein "board", (see Section C below), and is subject to the following:

A. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. A student who is a legal resident of another South Dakota district seeking to transfer to the Garretson School District must make an application to the Garretson School District. The application must be on triplicate forms provided by the State of South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs. The application must be made by an unemancipated student's parent, resident custodial parent, guardian, or by the emancipated student.
2. The Garretson School District will approve or disapprove the application and the applicant and the resident district will be notified of the decision within five days of the decision. Applications will be reviewed in the order received.
3. The application may be withdrawn by the applicant through notification to the affected school boards.
4. Once approved by the Garretson School District, the approved application serves as the applicant's notice of intent to enroll in the Garretson School District during the next school year and obligates the student to attend school in the Garretson School District for the next school year, unless the affected boards agree, in writing, to allow the student to transfer back to the resident district or unless the parent(s), guardian(s), or emancipated student change(s) residence to another district.
5. If a bona fide change of residence occurs, the parent(s), guardian(s), or emancipated student may then apply for enrollment in the Garretson School District. The application and approval dates will be waived in this circumstance and the board will consider the application in a timely manner and advise the applicant of the board's decision within five days of the decision.
6. Once enrolled in the Garretson School District, the enrollment will continue unless a bona fide change of residence occurs or a subsequent transfer application is received. Annual applications need not be submitted.

7. In the event of an accepted application pursuant to this policy, the Garretson School District will accept credits granted for any course successfully completed in any other accredited district. The Garretson School District will award a diploma to a non-resident student only if such student satisfactorily meets the Garretson School District's graduation requirements.
8. Transportation of nonresident students to Garretson is the responsibility of the applicant unless the student is a special education student who requires transportation as a related service (see Section B.3. below). However, by statute, either the Garretson School District or the non-resident district may provide transportation to the approved nonresident students. If the Garretson School District does agree to provide such transportation, applicants are advised that the Garretson School District reserves the right to discontinue such transportation if, in the discretion of the board, providing transportation to nonresident students is financially or logistically not feasible.

B. STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION

1. Discrimination based upon race, gender, religious affiliation, or disability is prohibited.
2. If two or more children from a family residing in the same household must enroll in different school districts as the result of denial of an application to transfer, the board will not deny the application.
3. The Garretson School District will accept applications to enroll in its district unless a basis for rejection, as delineated in Section B.4. below, exists or unless, in the discretion of the board, acceptance would result in an ability of the Garretson School District to provide a quality education program. The criteria for application of that standard may be specifically established from time to time by the board in the context of capacities of a program, a class, a grade level, the pupil-teacher ratio, and/or the school building(s). At the date of the adoption of this policy, the board has determined that none of the foregoing considerations preclude the acceptance of applications by students of any grade level or educational need. The board reserves the right to modify these standards from time to time as necessary in the discretion of the board. Such modification may be made by the board at any regular or special meeting permitted by law and will be applied to all then-pending and subsequent applications until further modification.
4. The board may reject any application for any of the following reasons:
 - a. The application was not timely.
 - b. Any capacities established pursuant to Section C.3. above are exceeded.
 - c. The nonresident student is under suspension or expulsion in a school district.
5. If a student enrolls in the Garretson School District under false pretense pertaining to Section B.4.c. above, the student may immediately be dismissed. Failure of an applicant to disclose any information related to B.4.c. above will be considered false pretense.

6. The Department of Education and Cultural Affairs has authority to promulgate rules setting forth procedural and administrative requirements for the implementation of the open enrollment program. The Garretson School District will abide by such rules. There may be resultant modification of this policy.
7. Pursuant to SDCL 13-28-44, SDCL 13-46 affords appeal from the board's decision.

C. SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Pursuant to 13-28-42.1, the Garretson School District will accept an open enrollment request for transfer of a student in need of special education or special education and related services only if an individualized education program team consisting of representatives from the resident district and the Garretson School District determines that the Garretson School District can provide an appropriate instructional program and facilities, including transportation, to meet the student's needs.

Note: Minnesota residents (Pipestone Area School District and Hills-Beaver Creek School District) may attend by making an application through the State of Minnesota Enrollment Option Program (otherwise known as the Border School Option).