

Red Clay Consolidated School District
Neighborhood Schools Plan
NOVEMBER 15, 2001



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Appendix

A. Red Clay School Choice Policy

**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS ACT PLAN**

Whereas the Red Clay Consolidated School District recognizes its obligations under the Neighborhood Schools Act; and

Whereas families of the Red Clay Consolidated School District have used school choice to enroll in schools other than the school of assignment; and

Whereas there are not enough school seats to allow all students to be assigned to the geographically closest school; and

Whereas the preferred school is not always the school closest to home; and

Whereas the Neighborhood Schools Act specifies that it is intended to work in harmony with Choice procedures.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Red Clay Consolidated School District plans to utilize the current school choice law as the primary mechanism to implement the Neighborhood Schools Act and to allow families to enroll in their preferred school; and

Be It Further Resolved that students who fail to submit a choice application in school transition grades (K, 6, 9 and grades 3 or 4 in selected schools) will be assigned, consistent with the Neighborhood Schools Act, to the school closest to home with available space;

Be It Further Resolved that:

- Historical feeder patterns will be maintained and enrollment guaranteed in the feeder pattern school for the feeder pattern years for all students submitting a timely school choice application.

- Grades 3, 4 and 5 will be added to Heritage, Linden Hill and Richey by choice in those years that the school is not over-subscribed by choice students from the historical grade K, 1 and 2 feeder patterns. Once students are enrolled in grade 3, they will be allowed to stay for grades 4 and 5.
- Assignment zones for elementary students not submitting choice applications will be identified to minimize bus rides to the assigned school; and

Be It Further Resolved that the following support is necessary to implement this plan and assure that sufficient space is available to permit students to attend their proximate school: (1) state-funded transportation must be provided for all students enrolled through school choice or closest school assignment and (2) an additional elementary school must be built to accommodate students who reside in the northwest quadrant of the district where there are no neighborhood schools.

This plan is scheduled to be implemented for the 2003-2004 school year, but implementation is contingent upon State Board approval and upon receipt by Red Clay of the funding specified in the Neighborhood Schools Act.

Now, Therefore Be It Enacted by the Red Clay Consolidated School District Board of Education on the 17th day of October 2001.



Red Clay Plan to implement HB300—Neighborhood Schools Legislation--Overview

- Red Clay will use the current School Choice plan as the basis for implementing The Neighborhood Schools Act.
- The district School Choice program accommodates more students at the school of choice (or closest school if that is preferred) than an arbitrary assignment of students to schools where 1390 (18%) elementary, 649 (16%) middle school and 687 (18%) high school students cannot be assigned to the closest school without overcrowding.
- The addition of a new elementary school in the Hockessin area will allow the current assignment and choice program to accommodate all district students in a K - 5 school where students are invited to their school of choice.
- Under implementation of the current law and Red Clay policy on School Choice the following have occurred.
 - High School -- district students who submitted choice applications on time have been invited to their first-choice high school.
 - Middle School - This year a total of 95% of the district choice applicants were invited to their first-choice school. (The remaining 29 are on the wait list and only six of those have applied to the school closest to home.)
 - Elementary School -- A total of 518 district school students (7% of the total enrollment) remain on the wait list for their first choice school. Of that number, only 125 (2%) applied to the school closest to home; 25 of them applied to Linden Hill and 75 of them applied to Brandywine Springs.



- Strict interpretation of The Neighborhood Schools Act requires feeder patterns to be redrawn to assign all students to the closest school. The following results occur in such a plan:
 - All Red Clay city high school students would be assigned to A.I. du Pont High School (capacity 1155), resulting in A.I. having more than 1800 students.
 - All North Star/ Hockessin area high school students would be assigned to McKean, which would then exceed its capacity.
 - A. I. du Pont Middle School (capacity 628) would have an enrollment of almost 1300 students, while H. B. du Pont Middle School (capacity 766) would operate at 50% of capacity.
 - All Red Clay city elementary students would be assigned to Lewis, Warner, Shortlidge and Highlands.
 - Lewis Elementary (capacity 486) would have 1200 students enrolled.
 - Linden Hill (capacity 552) would have 993 students enrolled.

**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS PLAN**

PROPOSED PLAN

Red Clay will continue to use its Red Clay Choice Plan to comply with the requirements of the Neighborhood Schools Act. Currently, all schools in Red Clay are accessible through the Red Clay Choice Plan. Most schools have residential feeder patterns. Students who choose to remain in their residential feeder pattern will be given a preference. Red Clay will continue to use school choice and implementation of the K – 5 configuration plan (approved in 1997) to fulfill its obligation regarding HB300, the Neighborhood Schools Act.

PLAN OVERVIEW

I. **High Schools**

To date, all district high school students who submitted a timely choice application received their first choice. Hence, they have chosen the school, which may or may not be, the most geographically proximate.

II. **Middle Schools**

Similarly, virtually all middle school students with timely choice applications are attending their first choice school. In fact, there are currently only six (6) students who applied to the closest school and did not get their first choice. However, these six (6) students are currently assigned to a middle school that is geographically proximate because the student lives on the border of two schools, and the one to which they are assigned is only slightly further than the closest school.

III. Elementary Schools

Currently, Red Clay's school configuration makes it impossible to accommodate all students' first choice requests. Red Clay has twice sought referendum approval to build a school in Hockessin. The presence of such a school would allow:

1. all elementary schools to be reconfigured K-5
2. all students to get their first choice, including the most proximate schools.

The growth of elementary students has been in the northwest quadrant of the district and neither Linden Hill nor Brandywine Springs (the closest schools) can accommodate the demand. For example, Brandywine Springs has 354 students on its first choice waiting list, which has had residual effects in virtually all Red Clay elementary schools. Those 354 students are in their second or third choice school. The proposed new school would accommodate virtually all students' first choices, as currently occurs in the middle schools and high schools.

To reassign all students arbitrarily to the "closest school" would result in about 1,300 elementary students not being so assigned, a far more detrimental consequence than the current system, when less than one-half of that number is affected.

Red Clay Consolidated School District Neighborhood Schools Plan

Rationale:

- A total of 39% of the district's students currently attend a school through the choice program. A total of 86% of the district's applicants were given invitations.
- There are insufficient seats in specific elementary schools to accommodate the number of students for whom that is the closest school (for example, 993 students residing closest to Linden Hill, 1209 students to Lewis).
- The district operates a school choice middle school at the Cab Calloway School of the Arts in the city and granted a high school charter to the Charter School of Wilmington, which operates a choice school with a preference for Red Clay High School students.
- Brandywine Springs Elementary School opened in September 2000 with a neighborhood preference zone and the rest of the space filled through school choice. The school is 100% occupied.
- The district has expanded grades in elementary schools since 1998. The original grades and current configurations are as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Baltz	K-5	K-5
Brandywine Springs	NA	K-5
Forest Oak	K-5	K-5
Heritage	K-2	K-4
Highlands	1-3	K-5
Lewis	1-3	K-5
Linden Hill	K-2	K-4
Marbrook	4-5	K-5
Mote	4-5	K-5
Richardson Park	1-5	1-5
Richey	K-2	K-4
Shortlidge	1-3	K-5
Warner	K, 3-5	K-5

- A total of two new elementary schools are needed to fully accommodate all students in a K-5 configuration and to increase the percentage of students accommodated in a school of choice.
- All district middle schools and regular high schools are in the suburbs. A total of 41% of the high school population is attending a school of choice; a total of 17.3% of the middle school population is attending a school of choice.
- All students participating in school choice or remaining in home schools will receive transportation.
- Assigning all middle school students to the closest existing regular middle school would result in H.B. du Pont Middle School being under adjusted at 60% of capacity and A.I. du Pont Middle school at 203 % of capacity.
- Currently through school choice, the districts middle schools range from 27% minority to 69.7% minority under the current assignments and school choice with reassignment to the closest school. Two schools would have fewer than 10% minority students (H.B. du Pont and Skyline) and A.I. du Pont Middle would be 85.7% minority.
- All city of Wilmington students would be assigned to A.I. du Pont Middle School and to A.I. du Pont High School.
- The A.I. du Pont High School would be at 159 % of capacity and both other high schools under capacity.
- The high schools would range from 5% and 66.5% minority compared to the current range of 26.1% to 43.6% under the current assignments and school choice.
- The attached map and table show the geographic location of all elementary students currently on the wait list.

- At the elementary level, there are 518 students on the wait list. Of those, 125 had made a first choice application to the geographically closest school and did not receive it. Of those 125 students, 75 live nearest to Brandywine Springs where there is a wait list of 354 students. An additional 13 students who applied to the closest school and wait listed are for Heritage and Linden Hill grade 3, whose added grades could not accommodate all of the applications received.
- At the elementary level there are 393 students who did not get their first choice who did not select the nearest school as their preferred school. (see Table 7) Of those 166 students, 42% reside closest to Linden Hill and made a first choice selection to a school other than the closest one. Linden Hill is the closest school for 993 students with a capacity of 552 full time equivalent (FTE) seats, not counting portables.

Elementary School Zones for Implementation of the Neighborhood School Act

- ❖ *All students at grades K, 6, and 9 and grades 3 or 4 in selected schools who fail to submit a choice application (or who submit an application with three choices and receive no invitation) will be assigned to a school within this neighborhood school zone.*
- ❖ *Definition of the neighborhood school zone: The district will be divided into three residential zones for elementary school assignments and students will be assigned to the closest school within the zone with space available after the school choice invitations have been issued using the district school choice policy.*

- ❖ *The three zones are:*

<u><i>ZONE 1</i></u>	<u><i>ZONE 2</i></u>	<u><i>ZONE 3</i></u>
<i>Highlands</i>	<i>Baltz</i>	<i>Forest Oak</i>
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Richardson Park</i>	<i>Heritage</i>
<i>Shortlidge</i>	<i>Richey</i>	<i>Linden Hill</i>
<i>Warner</i>		<i>Marbrook</i>
		<i>Mote</i>

- ❖ *Brandywine Springs will be assigned to a zone in the event it is not fully subscribed with choice students. Any new school will be added to a zone if it is not fully subscribed with choice students. Additional schools may result in the creation of additional or revised zones.*
- ❖ *The geographic areas for the zones will be comprised of the geographic closest school areas on the elementary map.*
- ❖ *The students by grade and available seats (before choice) are presented on an accompanying chart. There are sufficient seats to assign all kindergarten and grade three students to the appropriate schools.*
- ❖ *Neighborhood School Zone schools are not identified at the middle and high school levels. At those levels, students will be assigned to the nearest school with available spaces if they fail to apply to a school through the choice process.*

Seats Available and Current Zone Enrollment
Neighborhood School Zone 1

School	Seats (class cap)		Actual Seats	
	K	3	K	3
Highlands	44	44	62	62
Lewis	66	66	81	81
Shortlidge	88	88	94	94
Warner	176	176	212	212
Total	374	374	449	449

Current Total	Kindergarten	Grade 3
Zone Enrollment	293	384

Neighborhood School Zone 2

School	Seats (class cap)		Actual Seats	
	K	3	K	3
Baltz	154	154	172	172
Richardson Park	110	110	111	111
Richey	64	64	64	64
Total	328	328	347	347

Current Total	Kindergarten	Grade 3
Zone Enrollment	270	320

Neighborhood School Zone 3

School	Seats (class cap)		Actual Seats	
	K	3	K	3
Forest Oak	110	110	118	118
Heritage	88	88	92	92
Linden Hill	88	88	100	100
Marbrook	88	88	99	99
Mote	88	88	94	94
Total	462	462	503	503

Current Total	Kindergarten	Grade 3*
Zone Enrollment	450	529

The capacity is shown two ways: the first is if we only enroll the number of students to meet the class cap; the second shows the additional seats available and could create the opportunity to enroll an additional class depending upon the needs of the school. For example, larger class sizes at the upper elementary level may free up an additional classroom at the lower grades.

In recognition of natural attrition across the grades for relocation of families, enrollment of more kindergarten students may be considered, since 132 kindergarten students provides for four (4) full time kindergarten teachers while still adhering to the class cap of 22 students per class.

There are portable classrooms at Forest Oak, Heritage and Linden Hill which add a total of 28 additional seats at all three schools.

**Brandywine Springs is located within Neighborhood Zone 3, but it is not included in the calculation of the seats available. It adds 110 seats at each grade level. Its current enrollment is included in the enrollment total for the zone in which the student lives.*

"Seats available" figures are based on kindergarten half time enrollment at all school except Lewis and Shortlidge. It provides for a K-5 grade configuration where all students who enter the school at kindergarten and grade 3 in 2003 can remain in the school for the remainder of the elementary school years.

RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS PLAN

COST FACTORS TO IMPLEMENT PLAN

The district has identified a need for an additional elementary school to accommodate students closer to home and eliminate the extensive school choice wait lists that exist at that level. The district has also expended local funds to provide needed transportation for families who wish to access schools of choice.

The cost of the new school would be \$13,025,846. This building would provide 63,000 square feet of space to accommodate 650 students in grades K-5. The building would be located in the Hockessin area on a parcel of land, yet to be acquired, of approximately 17 acres.

The cost of choice transportation, based upon previous year's experience, is estimated at \$306,470. At the present time, the state has committed to pay for transportation only for students who are being served through the free and reduced lunch program.

Action Calendar for Neighborhood School Plan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location/Time</u>
<i>August 15</i>	<i>Board Review of Plan with Attorney and Staff</i>	<i>Executive Session Warner Elementary 5:00 P.M.</i>
<i>September 10</i>	<i>Release of Plan</i>	
<i>September 12</i>	<i>Public Presentation of Plan Public Hearing #1 Special Board Meeting</i>	<i>Brandywine Springs 7:00 P.M.</i>
<i>September 13</i>	<i>Public Presentation of Plan Public Hearing #2</i>	<i>Warner Elementary 7:00 P.M.</i>
<i>September 19</i>	<i>Public Hearing #3 Regular Board Meeting</i>	<i>Warner Elementary 7:00 P.M.</i>
<i>September 25</i>	<i>Public Hearing #4</i>	<i>Brandywine Springs 7:00 P.M.</i>
<i>October 17</i>	<i>Public Hearing #5 Regular Board Meeting Board Action on Plan</i>	<i>Brandywine Springs 7:00 P.M.</i>
<i>November 15</i>	<i>Deadline for submission of Plan to the State Board of Education</i>	

School Building and Program Capacity Tabulation

School	Program Capacity	Plus Modular Seats	Total Avail School Seats	Sept. 30th 2000 FTE	Difference Prog. Cap. - Sept 30th
A.I.High	1155	168	1323	1265	-110
Dickinson	1045	42	1087	981	64
McKean	1326	126	1452	1298	28
CCSA/Charter	1521	0	1521	1479	42
Sub-total	5,047	336	5,383	5,023	24
A.I.Middle	628	0	628	607	21
Conrad	988	0	988	734	254
H.B.DuPont	766	92	858	854	-88
Skyline	712	0	712	689	23
Stanton	759	0	759	630	129
Sub-total	3,853	92	3,945	3,514	339
Baltz	948	0	948	741	207
Br. Springs	580	0	580	563	17
Forest Oak	647	72	719	621	26
Heritage	508	44	552	468	40
Highlands	337	0	337	338	-1
Lewis	486	0	486	464	22
Linden Hill	552	44	596	489	63
Marbrook	546	0	546	532	14
Mote	521	0	521	467	54
Richardson Park	612	96	708	619	-7
Richey	354	44	398	362	-8
Shortlidge	564	0	564	481	83
Warner Elem.	967	0	967	604	363
Warner KN.	198	0	198	141	57
Sub-total	7,820	300	8,120	6,890	930
Grand Total:	16,720	728	17,448	15,427	1293

Jan. 24, 2001

RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT PROFILE 2000-2001
REPORT I

School Name	Total Feeder *	Red Clay Resident Choice	Other District Choice	Bilingual	Feeder Enrolled	Total Enrollment	Feeder Percent of Enrollment(a)	Percent of Feeder Enrolled in school (b)
Forest Oak Elem.	542	123	37		487	647	75%	90%
Heritage Elem.	504	208	33		292	533	55%	58%
Highlands Elem.	240	152	43		163	358	46%	68%
Lewis Elem.	313	113	75	152	124	464	27%	40%
Shortlidge Elem.	539	189	108		184	481	38%	34%
Linden Hill Elem.	491	218	13		302	553	57%	62%
Baltz Elem.	946	49	49		713	811	88%	75%
Richardson Park Elem.	715	54	28		537	619	87%	75%
Marbrook Elem.	394	160	21	79	272	532	51%	69%
Richey Elem.	387	80	35		303	418	72%	78%

*The feeder population includes regular program students only. It does not include students who reside in the feeder pattern but are students in the Bilingual, Meadowood or Learning Center Programs.

- a) This column tells what percentage of the school enrollment is made up of feeder students.
- b) This column tells what percentage of feeder students are enrolled in the school of assignment.

RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT PROFILE 2000-2001

School Name	Total Feeder not Bilingual or Meadowood or Learning Centers	Red Clay Consolidated School District	Other Districts	Bilingual	Feeder Enrolled	Total Enrollment	Feeder % of Enrollment	% of Feeder Enrollment
Brandywine Springs	0	586	21			607	NA	NA
Mote Elem.	397	177	17		273	467	58%	69%
Warner Elem.	912	154	58		392	604	65%	43%
Warner Kindergarten	267	21	43	30	187	281	67%	70%
A.I. Middle	430	158	43	118	288	607	47%	67%
H.B. DuPont Middle	668	235	14		606	855	71%	91%
Skyline Middle	683	136	9		544	689	79%	80%
Stanton Middle	848	22	38		570	630	90%	67%
Conrad Middle	940	17	20		697	734	95%	74%
Cab Calloway	0	366	311		0	677	NA	NA
Dickinson High	860	314	51		504	1038	51%	59%
A.I. High	590	452	54	74	527	1265	42%	89%
McKean High	917	492	38		774	1298	60%	84%

*The feeder population includes regular program students only. It does not include students who reside in the feeder pattern but are students in the Bilingual, Meadowood or Learning Center Programs.

a) This column tells what percentage of the school enrollment is made up of feeder students.

b) This column tells what percentage of feeder students are enrolled in the school of assignment.

**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GEOMETRIC NEAREST SCHOOL BOUNDARIES FOR K-5 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
(Existing Schools Only)**

**K-5 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT SUMMARY
(Enrollments as of Sep. 30, 2000)**

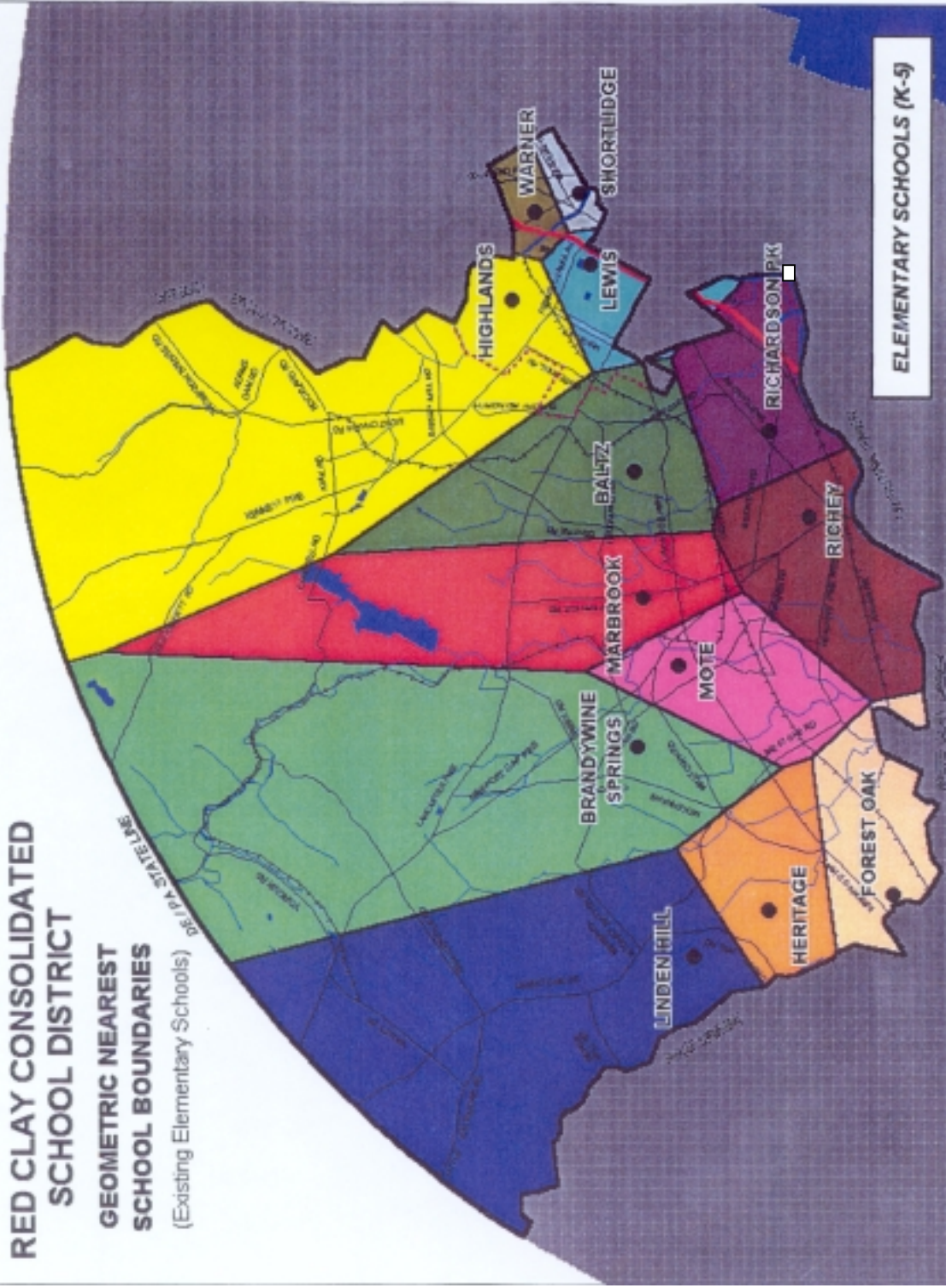
Enrollment

Sites								%	%	%
	KN	01	02	03	04	05	Total	Minor	Spec Ed	Lunch
Baltz	138	136	131	132	147	121	805	51.3	13.8	56.8
Brandywine Spr	74	104	104	86	108	95	571	9.8	10.3	7.7
Forest Oak	27	48	53	48	42	45	263	12.9	11.4	21.7
Heritage	46	52	73	59	59	63	352	12.2	7.1	13.4
Highlands	11	24	19	28	34	27	143	38.5	16.8	37.1
Lewis	161	182	231	211	205	219	1209	92.3	19.4	81.3
Linden Hill	130	178	170	185	162	168	993	5.3	9.9	4.5
Marbrook	47	49	70	42	44	62	314	19.1	14.0	23.9
Mote	62	95	104	109	122	92	584	30.8	11.6	36.6
Richardson Pk	70	116	88	90	91	89	544	49.1	17.5	55.9
Richey	62	86	95	98	86	90	517	34.0	14.3	38.7
Shortlidge	81	96	96	90	84	94	541	95.9	20.7	77.6
Warner	40	52	63	55	50	49	309	87.4	19.4	63.8
<i>Data Service Center - 2/16/01</i>										

RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GEOMETRIC NEAREST SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

(Existing Elementary Schools)



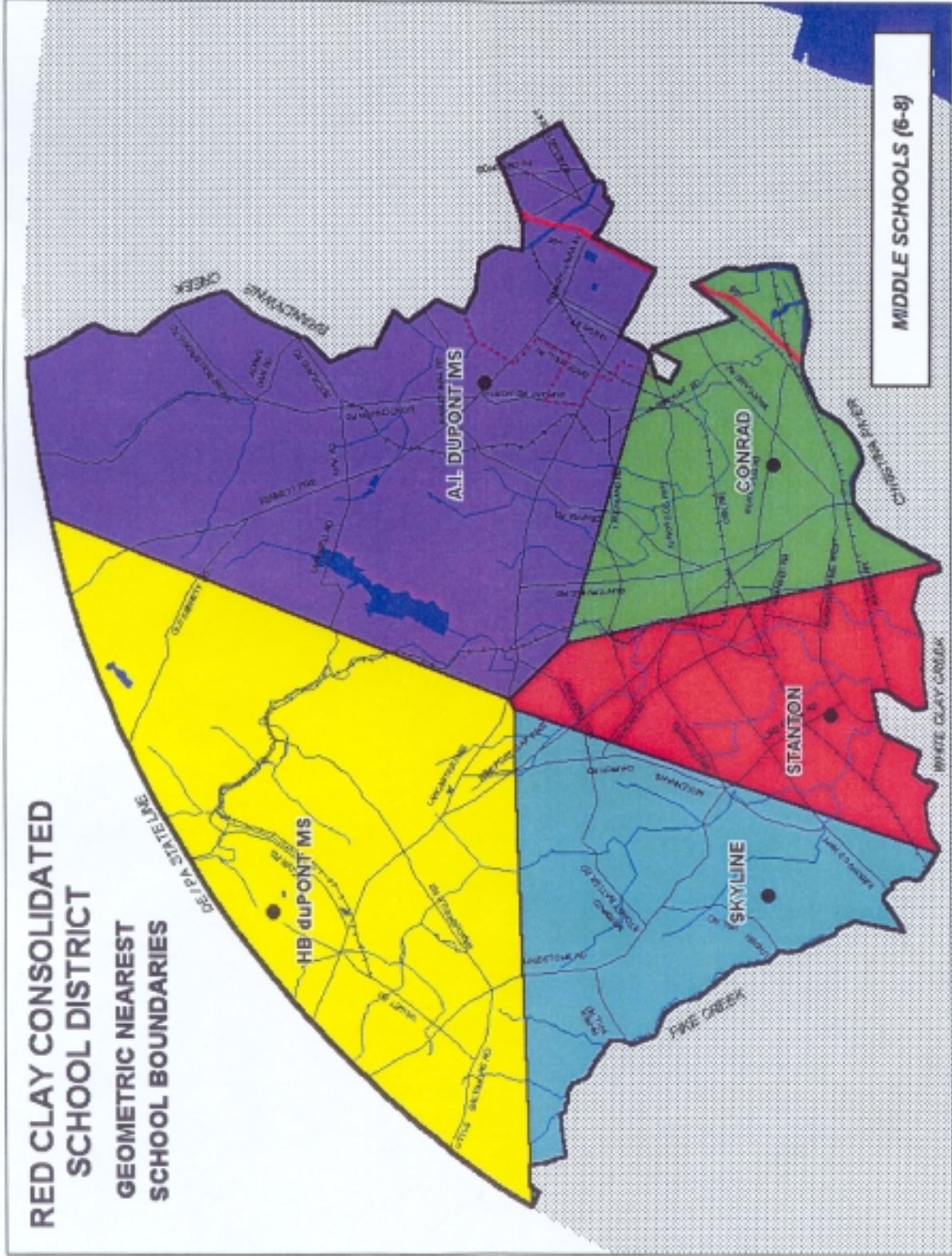
**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
 GEOMETRIC NEAREST SCHOOL BOUNDARIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS
 (Calloway Site Excluded)**

**GRADES 6-8 ENROLLMENT SUMMARY
 (Enrollments as of Sep. 30, 2000)**

	ENROLLMENT				%	%	%
Sites	06	07	08	Total	Minor	Spec Ed	Lunch
A.I. duPont MS	413	424	440	1277	85.7	21.5	75.2
Conrad	305	307	283	895	34.4	14.4	46.5
H.B. duPont	136	170	156	462	5.0	6.1	2.6
Skyline	177	240	206	623	7.5	4.8	9.0
Stanton	186	198	154	538	16.5	11.5	27.7
				3795	41.2	13.8	42.0
<i>Data Service Center - 6/29/01</i>							

**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**GEOMETRIC NEAREST
SCHOOL BOUNDARIES**



MIDDLE SCHOOLS (6-8)

Data Service Center

**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GEOMETRIC NEAREST SCHOOL BOUNDARIES FOR HIGH SCHOOLS
(Calloway Site Excluded)**

**GRADES 9-12 ENROLLMENT SUMMARY
(Enrollments as of Sep. 30, 2000)**

	ENROLLMENT					%	%	%
Sites	09	10	11	12	Total	Minor	Spec Ed	Lunch
A.I. duPont HS	668	488	381	298	1835	66.5	15.7	51.0
Dickinson	335	263	259	195	1052	17.1	7.3	17.2
McKean	276	257	250	260	1043	5.4	4.6	2.7
					3930	37.0	10.5	29.1
<i>Data Service Center - 6/29/01</i>								

RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON CHOICE WAIT LIST
WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THEIR 1ST CHOICE SCHOOL
AND LIVE WITHIN THE GEOMETRIC NEAREST SCHOOL BOUNDARY OF THAT SCHOOL
(Calloway Site Excluded)**

	Grade							
School	KN	01	02	03	04	05	Total	
Forest Oak	1			4		2	7	
Heritage		1		4			5	
Lewis	2	1			1		4	
Shortlidge	2						2	
Linden Hill	4	7	5	9			25	
Marbrook			2				2	
Richey				5			5	
Brandywine Spr	28	13	8	14	5	7	75	
<i>Subtotal K-5</i>	37	22	15	36	6	9	125	
School	06	07	08	03	04	05	Total	
H.B. duPont			1				1	
Skyline	4						4	
Stanton		1					1	
<i>Subtotal 6-8</i>	4	1	1	0	0	0	6	
School	09	10	11	12			Total	
A.I. duPont HS	8	2	1				11	
McKean	1						1	
<i>Subtotal 9-12</i>	9	2	1	0	0	0	12	
Total							143	
<i>Data Service Center - 7/26/01</i>								

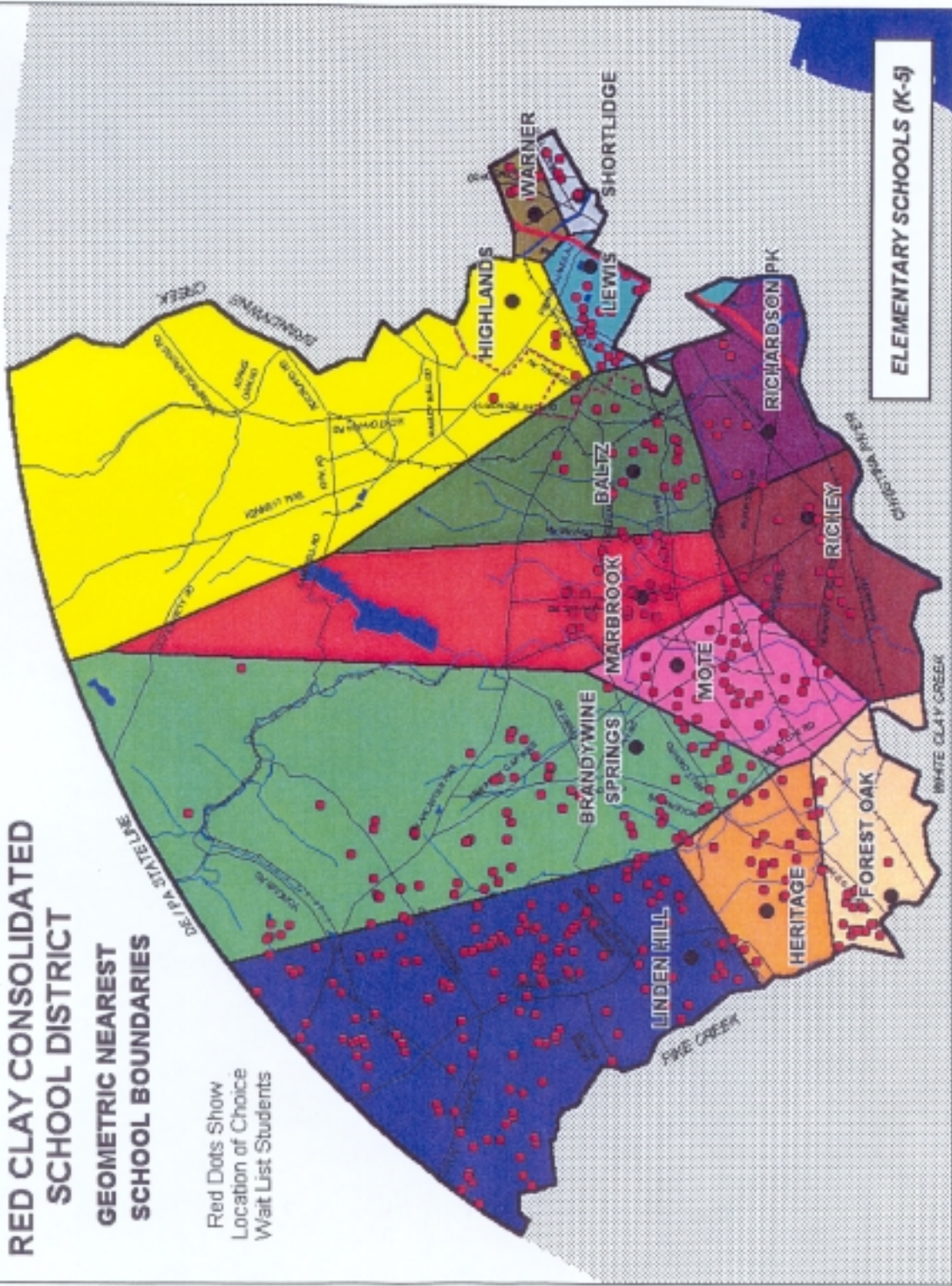
**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON CHOICE WAIT LIST
WHO LIVE WITHIN THE GEOMETRIC NEAREST SCHOOL BOUNDARY OF A SCHOOL
(Calloway Site Excluded)**

School	Grade						Total
	KN	01	02	03	04	05	
Baltz	5	7	3	6	3	2	26
Brandywine Spr	4	4	1	10		2	21
Forest Oak	8	1		4	3	1	17
Heritage	10	3	4	7		4	28
Highlands	2	1	2				5
Lewis	3	8	1	2	2	2	18
Linden Hill	37	27	16	37	21	28	166
Marbrook	15	12	3	3	3	1	37
Mote	9	8	7	8	3	3	38
Richardson Pk	3	1	1	6			11
Richey	5	4	2	1	3	1	16
Shortlidge				2		1	3
Warner		1	1	2	2	1	7
Subtotal K-5	101	77	41	88	40	46	393
School	06	07	08				Total
A.I. duPont MS	7	3	1				11
Conrad	8	7	2				17
Skyline	5	4	2				11
Stanton	6	1					7
Subtotal 6-8	26	15	5				46
School	09	10	11	12			Total
A.I. duPont HS	6	2	1				9
Dickinson	2	1	2				5
McKean	5	1					6
Subtotal 9-12	13	4	3	0			20
Total							459
<i>Data Service Center - 7/26/01</i>							

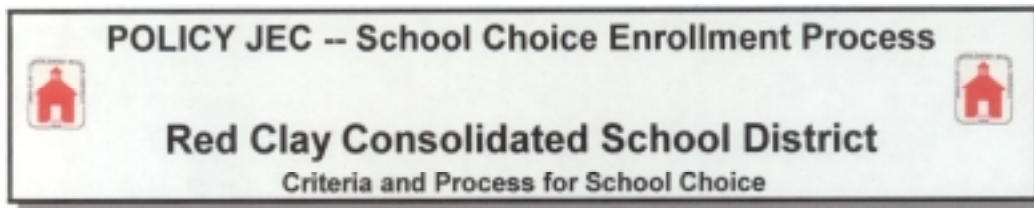
RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GEOMETRIC NEAREST SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

Red Dots Show
Location of Choice
Wait List Students



Appendix



School Choice is designed to increase access to educational opportunity for all children in the state. A parent residing within Delaware may enroll his or her child in a public school in any school district independent of the student's area of residence.

CHOICE ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Applications will be accepted from November 1, to the second Wednesday in January for students in grades K-12 for the regular school choice process. All applications must be postmarked or received in person by 4:30 p.m. on the identified closing date. No consideration will be given to late submissions or mail inadequacies, which delay receipt of the application. After those deadlines, applications may be submitted which meet the good cause provisions of the law. Good cause applications for kindergarten are needed after the first day of school.

Good Cause late applications are filed for one of the following reasons:

- change in child's residence due to a change in family residence
- change in the state in which the family residence is located
- change in a child's parent's marital status
- change caused by a guardianship proceeding
- placement of a child in foster care/adoption
- participation by a child in a foreign exchange program
- participation by a child in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program
- or a similar set of circumstances consistent with this definition of "Good Cause" (such as day care).

All applications must be submitted on the form designed by the Department of Public Instruction. No altered applications will be accepted unless the

corrected portion contains a parental signature (initials) at the place of correction.

Applications will be accepted for students who are residents of the state but not currently enrolled in a district school according to the process outlined in this document. These students will follow district policy for establishing proof of residence when their application is submitted. The applications for students not currently registered in a New Castle County Public School District must have a copy of the birth certificate attached to the application. This includes kindergarten students who have not registered in the school of assignment.

Students will be permitted to identify up to three school choices on the application. The choices will be identified in priority order.

All applications must be forwarded or postmarked to the Office of School Choice, Red Clay Consolidated School District, Brandywine Springs, 2916 Duncan Road Wilmington, DE. 19808 by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline day. No applications are to be submitted directly to schools except for Cab Calloway School of the Arts and Charter Schools.

Students will be notified of the school assignment by the last day of February. In the case of applications submitted after the initial deadline, students will be notified no later than 45 days after the application is received.

Enrollment in a school by application is for the grade span of that school's regular assignment program and is for that school only and not for the feeder pattern of the residential area of the school. Students return to their feeder pattern school at the completion of all grades of the choice school unless an application is submitted at that time.

There will be a separate choice application for grade 3 at Heritage, Linden Hill and Richey and grades 4 at Shortlidge, Lewis and Highlands, which will remain in place for subsequent grades.

All applicants enrolled at Mote (K-3), Marbrook (K-3), Warner (K-2) will be enrolled for the full K-5 grade span without additional applications in the future.

Any student who is accepted for enrollment in a school and fails to be promoted to the grade for which application was made has two options. He or she may enroll in the retained grade at that school if appropriate or may defer enrollment until the next September and will not have to resubmit an application.

All students will receive notice that a choice application has been received. If that receipt is not received by the parent by 15 days after the application deadline, the parent must contact the district choice office to determine that the application has been received.

Parents must accept or reject invitations to Choice schools on or before the third Friday in March. If no response is received, the invitation will be rejected.

WHO MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?

Any student who wishes to choose a school and/or program other than their regularly assigned feeder-pattern school and/or program.

There will not be a feeder pattern assignment to Wilmington High School for ninth grade students. Current eighth graders in the Wilmington High School feeder have enrollment options for high school selection but must complete a school choice application by the deadline to be eligible for the options.

All Wilmington High School feeder students will be guaranteed enrollment in the school selected (Dickinson, A.I. Dupont High or McKean) and will be provided transportation according to the Board-adopted transportation plan for school choice.

Wilmington feeder students may submit applications for Cab Calloway School of the Arts or any other programs at Wilmington High School, including the Charter School of Wilmington. Those applications are made directly with the school.

Any Wilmington feeder student who fails to make application by the January, deadline will be assigned to one of the district high schools based on space available.

Students who have siblings already enrolled for the next year or enrolling in a choice school must submit an application to be assigned to that school.

Students previously considered for school reassignment through the special permission process are required to submit an application under the choice process. Special permissions will continue to be granted in specific situations where the provisions of the choice enrollment process are not applicable.

Applications will not be accepted for students who have been expelled from Red Clay or another school district until that student has been readmitted to the expelling district. Students who are enrolled in New Beginnings or other such alternative programs may submit applications as appropriate for the next school year under the established guidelines.

ENROLLMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STUDENTS

Students designated as Limited English Proficiency and those students receiving special education services may participate in the choice process in accordance with their individual educational plans and **space in** programs at designated schools.

WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATIONS

An application may be withdrawn by written notification to the receiving district of residence at any time prior to action on the application. If more than one application is on file in the district at the time the assignment is made, the most recent application receipt dated will be used for assignment.

If an application is withdrawn, the student will remain assigned to the home school.

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

The capacity of each school will be reviewed annually by the Superintendent in conjunction with the Board prior to the start of the choice assignment process. The number will be used as a guideline to decide the choice capacity of each school, i.e., how many choice students will be issued invitations to enroll in each school and/or be placed on a wait list for that school. A school's choice capacity will be determined by the amount of available building space and projections regarding the total number of seats that need to be reserved for feeder pattern students, currently enrolled students, and, in the case of the high schools, those students either choosing in or assigned from the Wilmington High School feeder pattern.

Prior to the time that the choice assignment is conducted, a school capacity and projected enrollment will be calculated for each grade of a school for which applications are being accepted.

That program capacity will be allocated equally to each of the grades in the school.

Projected enrollment for each grade will take into account residential students and existing enrolled Choice students. The residential population will be defined at that school for the next grade as well as students who are enrolled in the school whether by residence or choice.

Seats available at each grade level will be determined by subtracting the projected enrollment from the capacity allocated to each grade within the school.

The assignment process will be conducted so that students assigned out of the school will increase the seats available for students selecting the school.

WAIT LIST

A wait list will be established for each school based on the random number assigned to each applying student and order of the late application submission which meet the "good cause" provisions.

Students will be maintained on the wait list for first, second and third choice school as appropriate.

Students who are not assigned any of their three choices will be contacted after the close of the assignment process to request assignment to any school which is not oversubscribed if such a school is chosen over the school of residence. These students will remain on the wait list of their first, second and third choice schools.

The wait list will be maintained until April 15 for out of district students and until September 10 for students who reside in Red Clay. The district assumes no responsibility for insuring correct address or telephone information for this notification.

OBTAINING APPLICATIONS

Enrollment applications may be obtained from the office of any Red Clay school or the Office of School Choice at 2916 Duncan Road or by contacting the district (683-6645).

STUDENT CHOICE SELECTION CRITERIA

The criteria listed below will be used in priority order for all students participating in the selection process.

Within each category (1-6), if there are more students' selections for the school than there are seats available, the computer lottery process will be used for selection. All remaining students will be placed on the wait list based on category and random number within that category.

1. Returning students (including current kindergarten students) who continue to meet the requirements of the grade configuration of the school.
- 1.A. At schools with added grades—Preferences for returning students will be prioritized as follows:
 1. In District Returning Students
 2. Out-of-District Returning Students

Note: Current kindergarten students must complete an application for the first grade of a school other than the feeder school.

2. A. Students who seek to attend a school based upon the residence of the student's parent within the designated feeder pattern for other grades in the school.
2. B. Students who seek to attend a school based upon the residence of the student's parent within the designated feeder pattern for other grades in the school.
2. C. Children of Red Clay employees who live in the district will have preference to the school where the parent is assigned.
3. Siblings of Red Clay students who will remain enrolled in the program for the next school year provided that the siblings meet the requirements for the program or school. Exiting students are not considered siblings for this enrollment preference.
4. In-district students who have designated the school as first, second or third choice, based on the random number assigned by the computer lottery process. Siblings of Out-of-district students who have designated the school as first, second or third choice based on the random number assigned by the computer lottery process.
5. In-district students who have designated the school as first, second or third choice, based on the random number assigned by the computer lottery process.
6. Siblings of Out-of-district students who have designated the school as first, second or third choice based on the random number assigned by the computer lottery process.

RACIAL BALANCE

In accordance with adopted Board policy (JECD), the racial balance of the enrolled students will reflect the racial balance of the applicant pool.

PROGRAM CONTINUATION Once a student is assigned to a school through the choice process, no action is necessary in order for the student to remain for subsequent years except as noted above. The student will have all the rights and responsibilities of a resident student.

SPECIFIC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Any regular or charter school or program which is populated only by choice applicants may establish additional requirements for enrollment application and may identify admissions based on recommendations. This provision does not apply to schools which enroll resident students.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus assignments and stops for out-of-district Choice students will be issued by the transportation department. A within-district location will be assigned on a regular bus route for the Choice school.

Bus assignments and stops for in-district Choice students will be issued by the transportation department. A within-district location will be assigned on a regular bus route for the Choice school.

All good cause applicants will be required to utilize existing Red Clay school bus routes to the school of Choice.

Once the pick-up and drop-off location is established, parents must assume the responsibility to have the student at the designated location.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

Students shall be governed by the rules of the DSSAA with regard to eligibility of transferring student.

Students for whom this is a concern should check with the principal of the school(s) being considered for choice.

ENROLLMENT AFTER THE APPLICATION PERIOD

Students who fail to submit an application because of "good cause" outlined above will be considered for enrollment or wait list on a space available basis after the initial choice assignments have been made.

Students who are new to the district will be enrolled on a space available for all grades and programs but will be guaranteed enrollment at the school of residence. Students moving into the preference zone for Brandywine Springs and who submit a choice application will be placed on the wait list and enrolled

if space becomes available. They will receive a preference for enrollment in the next choice application period with the submission of an application by the established deadline,

SPECIAL PERMISSIONS

All applications for assignment that are not covered in the above provisions may be considered for special permission for enrollment by submission of an application and an explanatory document outlining the reasons given for the request.

TERMINATION OF ENROLLMENT IN A SCHOOL OF CHOICE

A parent may provide notice by the prior December 1 to terminate enrollment at the end of the school year. An application to withdraw may be accepted after the December 1 deadline if the deadline was missed for "good cause" reasons listed above.

Following the granting of a request for withdrawal, the student's home district will be notified the student will be returned to the roster of the school of residence for projection purposes and any application for a Choice enrollment handled according to the established process.

Any requests for program termination and reassignment outside of the feeder pattern within the school year will be processed as special permission requests.

A student who fails to meet the academic requirements of a choice school will not be permitted to return the next school year. Meeting the academic requirements is defined as meeting the District standards for promotion to the next grade level.

A student who violates the district Student Code of Conduct, and as the third suspension is placed on a Behavior Contract and who subsequently is suspended, as well as a student who engages in conduct which may result in a recommendation for alternative placement and/or expulsion, will not be permitted to return to the choice school for the following school year.

Prepared by:
Red Clay Consolidated School District
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