

**MANIFEST EDUCATIONAL HARDSHIP
SAU 48**

Resident students of the District shall be assigned to a public school within the District by the Superintendent, or designee.

The Board recognizes that in unusual and extraordinary circumstances, parent(s) or guardian(s) may wish to request a change of assignment to another public school in another district. When the parent(s) or guardian(s) believe that the assignment which has been made will result in a manifest educational hardship to the student, the Board will consider these requests, according to the procedure outlined below.

PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF A MANIFEST EDUCATIONAL HARDSHIP REQUEST

The following procedures will be utilized where a parent(s) or guardian(s) seeks a waiver of assignment from attending any school in the District based on an assertion that the current assignment constitutes a manifest educational hardship:

1. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall make a written request, through the Superintendent's office, detailing the specific reasons why they believe that the current assignment constitutes a manifest educational hardship.
2. The Board will schedule a time at a regular board meeting held within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written request of the parent(s) or guardian(s) to hear the parent(s) or guardian(s) request. At such time, the parent(s) or guardian(s) may address the Board. The Board will hear the parent(s) or guardian(s) to have the matter heard in public session under RSA 91-A:3II(c).
3. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student may use whatever information which they deem is appropriate to support their request. At a minimum, however, the parent(s) or guardian(s) must submit information demonstrating to the School Board that the current assignment is detrimental or has a negative effect on the student.
4. In determining whether the current assignment of the student constitutes a manifest educational hardship, and what the corresponding appropriate action should be (which may include, but not be limited to, assignment to a public school in another district) the Board shall consider all information given it by the parent(s) or guardian(s), the recommendations of the Superintendent, and any other information which the Board deems relevant and useful.

Variables to be considered when making a determination of hardship shall include things such as the student's educational needs, emotional and social well-being, safety and accessibility. Specifically the Board will consider.

- Whether the student has a particular education need that cannot be substantially met by the assigned school;
 - Whether the student's particular educational need is one that is not commonly found within the student body of the assigned school;
 - Whether the inability of the assigned school to meet the student's educational need will significantly impair the student's educational growth;
 - Whether there is a significant safety concern that impacts the student's educational growth;
 - Whether there is a public school reasonably available in another school district that can meet the student's specific educational, emotional or social needs.
5. The Board reserves the legal right to make a determination on whether a given request constitutes a manifest educational hardship, and what the corresponding action should be, on a case by case basis.
 6. The Board will render its decision in writing within fifteen (15) days after the Board meeting in which the parent(s) or guardian(s) addressed the Board, and will forward its written decision to the parents or guardians via US mail.
 7. If a parent or guardian is aggrieved by the decision of the Board, he/she may appeal to the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of Ed 200.
 8. In the event the School Board determines that a manifest educational hardship does exist, the Board shall assume (financial) responsibility for a placement in another public school if it is determined that such placement is the best educational, social and physical option.
 9. Respective School Boards shall agree to the placement of the student and the related cost associated with the placement.

Tuition and Transportation

The Superintendents involvement in the reassignment of schools under this policy shall jointly establish a tuition rate for each student. Tuition payments shall be the responsibility of the pupil's resident school district. Some or all of the tuition may be waived by the Superintendent of the receiving district for good cause shown or pursuant to other board policy, if applicable. The cost of transportation shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Approved: May 26, 2016