

Criteria for Accepting Nonresident District Students

Any student who resides outside the district may apply to attend a school in the district. A parent or guardian shall apply for admission on behalf of his or her child by completing an Application for Nonresident Student Transfer Request. All applications for "continuing transfers" will be reviewed on a case-by-case considering principal recommendation and school records. "Initial transfers" or new applicants may submit applications after January 15th of each year. Initial transfers will be considered on a first-come, first serve basis considering continuing renewals before new applicants. Applications for nonresident transfer for grades 1-12 of the following year will not be reviewed until April 15th.

****Note: Decisions for nonresident Kindergarten Placement for the following year will not be reviewed until June 30th. Applications will be accepted after January 15th. Kindergarten nonresident applications will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis pending space availability.**

The district may reject or accept an application for nonresident admission based upon the following:

- Whether space is available in the grade level classes, or programs are available at the requested building.
- Whether accepting the student would create a financial hardship for the district.
- Whether the student has met fair and reasonable academic, attendance, and/or behavioral standards.
- Whether significant changes in services, settings, programs, or placement will be required of the district.
- Whether the student's attendance in the district is likely to create a risk to the health or safety of other students or staff.
- Whether the student's disciplinary records indicate a history of disruptive behavior.
- Whether the student's disciplinary records indicate a history of violent or gang membership or the student has a record of convictions for offenses or crimes.
- Whether the student has been expelled or suspended from a public school for more than 10 consecutive days.
- Whether the student is currently under a suspension or expulsion from a public school.
- Whether the information on the application is complete or has been misrepresented.

Except for students who reside out of state, nonresident **students of full-time certificated and/or classified school employees** shall be accepted unless the nonresident student:

- Has a history of violent or disruptive behavior or gang membership.
- The student has been expelled or suspend from a public school for more than 10 consecutive days.
- The initial enrollment of the child would displace a resident student, however, once the child is admitted, that child may remain enrolled until he or she completes schooling.

If a nonresident student is accepted, **the parent/guardian is responsible for providing transportation for the student.** Decisions for the current year will reviewed in a timely manner after the application is complete. Nonresident high school student athletes must meet the eligibility of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) to participate in varsity sports.

The parent/guardian will be notified by email (or postal mail if an email address is not provided) of acceptance and the effective start date, or rejection. If the request is rejected, the notification will include the reason for the denial and steps to appeal the decision. If a district does not respond to a request within 45 days of the request, the request is treated as a denial and the parent/guardian can appeal.

If the application is denied, the parent or guardian may request a meeting with the assistant superintendent to present information pertinent to the application. A final decision will be communicated to the parent in writing within 5 school days. The meeting can be arranged by calling (253) 517-1000.

The final decision of the district to deny the admission of a nonresident student may be appealed to the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee.

OSPI

Administrative Resources Services
Old Capitol Building
P.O. Box 472000
Olympia WA 98504

or Calling 360-725-6136

Appeals to OSPI can also be found online: www.k12.wa.us/ProfPractices/adminresources/appeals.aspx

Fife School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinator, Ben Ramirez, Assistant Superintendent: bramirez@fifeschools.com. Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Nancy Fitta, Director of Special Programs: nfitta@fifeschools.com Fife Public Schools: 5802 20th St. E., Tacoma, WA 98424, [253.517.1000](tel:253.517.1000).