School Choice General Information

- A student’s zoned school is the school in the boundary area based on the enrolling parent’s home address. A student’s choice school is the one for which is applied to attend outside of the boundary area.
- Only students wishing to change schools need to apply for School Choice. Completing an application does not guarantee assignment to a Choice School. Students living in or moving into a zone are guaranteed a seat in their zoned school and do not have to apply during the Open Enrollment period.
- Students who are currently attending a school through the Choice Program should not apply if they wish to remain at their Choice School. The choice assignment is good through the highest grade level at the Choice School.
- A principal may recommend the revocation of Choice for any student who fails to comply with all attendance, discipline and punctuality standards.
- Applications for School Choice will be considered based on school capacity, the student’s proximity to the Choice School, and other race-neutral factors.
- Choice preference is given to district employee dependents, students moving because parent is active-duty military personnel or moving because of foster care placement or court-ordered custody arrangements, placement of siblings within the same school, and students living in the district.
- Students may choose a school only once a year and are expected to complete at least one school year at the Choice School.
- If applying for 11th or 12th grade, submit a School Transfer (Hardship).
- Career Academy selections are a separate process, further details available through ACT at 941-751-6550 x 2006.
- Visit Blackburn Elementary, Johnson K8, Buffalo Creek Middle, Southeast High or Palmetto High to apply for the IB or AICE programs. These programs recommend tours and added eligibility requirements.

Controlled Open Enrollment Dates:

December 2-31, 2019

Applications require active Parent Portal account and are submitted online via the Focus Parent Portal

- Instructions available online at: Manateeschools.net
- For assistance contact:
  Office of Student Assignment
  1400 1st Avenue East
  Palmetto, FL 34221
  StudentAssignment@ManateeSchools.net
  941.708.4971

For more information

Office of Student Assignment
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Palmetto, FL 34221
Studentassignment@manateeschools.net
941.708.4971
Choice bus transportation is offered to schools within cluster or region. Clusters and regions subject to change prior to Open Enrollment window.

**Elementary Clusters**

- **Elementary Cluster Area One**
  - 3904 17th Street E, Bradenton, 34221
  - 723-4800

- **Elementary Cluster Area Two**
  - 1415 25th Street E, Bradenton, 34203
  - 723-4833

- **Elementary Cluster Area Three**
  - 4700 Gulf Drive N, Holmes Beach, 34217
  - 941-575-5252

- **Elementary Cluster Area Four**
  - 710 Madison Place Sarasota, 34243
  - 941-760-4000

- **Elementary Cluster Area Five**
  - 315 State Road 64 E, Bradenton, 34212
  - 723-4990

- **Elementary Cluster Area Six**
  - 912 18th Street W, Bradenton, 34205
  - 723-8400

- **Elementary Cluster Area Seven**
  - 907 15th Avenue W, Bradenton, 34205
  - 723-3344

- **Middle School Regions**

  - **Middle School Northeast Region**
    - Buffalo Creek: 7320 69th Street E, Palmetto, 34221
    - 723-2260

  - **Middle School Southeast Region**
    - Palmetto K8: 6025 Bayshore Rd., Palmetto, 34221
    - 723-4812

  - **Middle School West Region**
    - Johnson KB: 2121 26th Avenue E, Bradenton, 34208
    - 741-3344

**Transportation**

Choice bus transportation is NOT available at the high school level. If entering 11th/12th a HARDSHIP should be used in lieu of a Choice Application.

**Elementary/Middle Schools**

Transportation may be provided to public schools within elementary clusters and middle school regions provided the student lives more than two miles from the choice school. Transportation is not provided for students living in outreach areas which include Anna Maria Island and residents east of State Road 675 or west of Canal Road.

**IB/AICE Programs**

Parents selecting an IB or AICE Program will be responsible for transporting the student to and from hub stops. Transportation hubs are located throughout the county for these programs.

**High Schools**

Choice transportation is not available at the high school level. The International Baccalaureate Program at Southeast High School and The Advanced International Certificate of Education program at Palmetto High School are the only high school programs provided transportation.

**Application Details**

**Application Dates:** December 2-31, 2019

- **New** Open Enrollment Choice 2020/2021 run for grades KG-10th
- **New** Online Choice Application required for Focus Parent Portal account.

Click the following link to create or update your Focus Parent Portal account:

**Parent Portal Registration**

- For students actively enrolled in a Manatee County School you will need your child's student ID number, go to parent portal registration and select: "I would like to add a child who is already enrolled." 
- Incoming Kindergarten or NOT currently enrolled in the School District of Manatee County, go to parent portal registration and select: "I would like to apply for enrollment for a new child.
- Choice Application must be submitted by the "Enrolling Parent" per School District of Manatee County POLICY

**For Information on Home Education visit our website: ManateeSchools.net**

**Home Education**

Another school choice option is Home Education. Florida statute 1002.41 requires that parents notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing of an intent to initiate a Home Education Program. The application must be completed and delivered to the Office of Student Assignment, 1400 1st Ave E, Palmetto, FL 34221

For more information on home education visit our website: ManateeSchools.net

**Charter Schools**

- To attend a charter school you must apply directly to the school.
- Imagine Charter at Lakewood Ranch
  - 10135 Portola Crossing Bradenton
  - 750-9900

- Lincoln Memorial Academy
  - 305 17th St E. Palmetto
  - 723-6840

- Manatee Charter School
  - 4550 30th St. Bradenton
  - 741-8296

- Manatee School For The Arts
  - 204 15th Ave W. Bradenton
  - 749-8296

- Manatee School Of Arts & Sciences
  - 4304 32nd St W. Bradenton
  - 749-9779

- Parrish Charter Academy
  - 8605 Erie Rd. Parrish
  - 545-6380

- Rivelit Charter
  - 3500 9th St. W Bradenton
  - 708-6100

- Visible Men Academy
  - 5912 63rd Ave E. Bradenton
  - 758-7588

For more information on home education visit our website: ManateeSchools.net