

Kent Intermediate Superintendents' Association

Collaborative Schools of Choice Program 2018-2019



Application period April 9-May 11, 2018

- **Parents notified by May 21 if student accepted**
- **Parents confirm decision to attend by May 30**
- **Waiting list families notified about openings and confirm decision to attend by June 30**

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Kent Intermediate Superintendents' Association Collaborative Schools of Choice Program

The Schools of Choice Program helps parents explore the option of sending their children to a school district other than the one in which they live.

All 20 public school districts within Kent ISD participate in the Kent Intermediate Superintendents' Association Collaborative Schools of Choice Program. The program is coordinated by Kent ISD.

The plan is open to all families within Kent ISD. All students are eligible, regardless of grade level, ethnic background or student ability. The only limit on movement between school districts is the space available in the desired district.

Each year by early April, our school districts publish the number of Schools of Choice openings they will have for the coming school year and begin taking applications from parents who would like to select a new school district for their children.

Depending on the number of seats available and the number of applications for those openings, one of these things will happen:

- If a district has more openings available than applications, all eligible applicants will be invited to enroll their children.
- If a district has unused openings, those seats will remain open through the first day of the 2018-19 school year. That means parents interested in that district have the opportunity to apply for a Schools of Choice opening until school begins.
- If a district has more applications than seats available, a lottery will be conducted. Families selected through the lottery will be invited to enroll their children in their district of choice. (The application form submitted by families not selected in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list and/or forwarded to the family's alternate choice of schools for consideration.)

Parents will be notified if their student is accepted into the district desired. Once enrolled through Schools of Choice, that student can remain in the district for his or her entire school career. Siblings may be accepted by the district of choice as well.

To learn about school districts for your child, visit kentisd.org and SchoolNewsNetwork.org

How to Apply for Schools of Choice

Parents Can Apply By:

- Requesting a Schools of Choice application form from their resident district or choice district during the application period, **Monday, April 9 through Friday, May 11.**
- Completing and returning the application to the district of choice by the **4 pm deadline on May 11.**

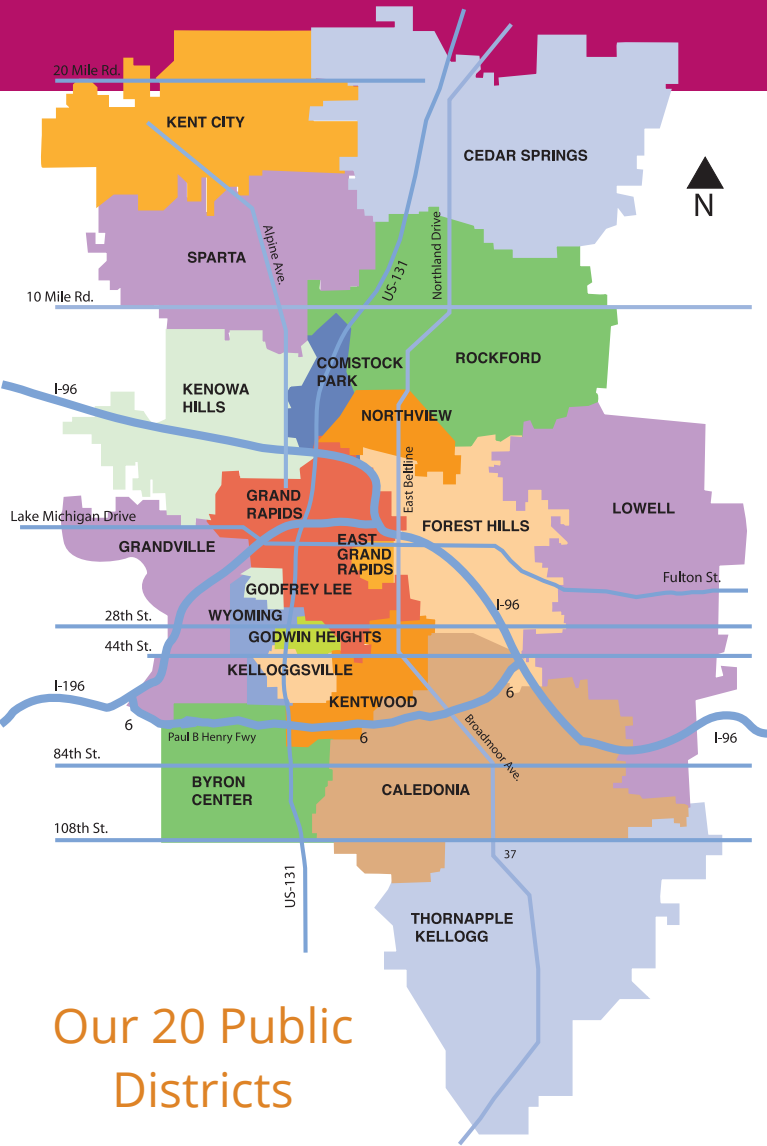
Be sure to indicate alternate school choices on the form, in case the district of choice has more applications than openings and must then have a lottery. Applications of students not selected in the lottery will be automatically forwarded to the alternate choices listed on the form and/or placed on a waiting list.

Note: Only one total application should be submitted per student.

Other Important Deadlines:

- Parents will be notified if their student was accepted into the district of choice no later than **May 21.**
- Parents must confirm their decision to enroll with the school district by **May 30.**
- Parents with students on a waiting list will be notified if there are openings and will confirm decisions to enroll by **June 30.**

10 Considerations When Selecting a School



1. Does the school and the community match your expectations? Are buildings presentable? Are teachers and students friendly?
2. What special services does the school offer? Does it offer the special needs or gifted and talented programming your child might require? Do the extracurricular and athletic offerings match your child's interests?
3. Does the curriculum meet state and national standards? Does the curriculum help prepare children for the realities of the working world and the diverse people they will meet? Does the district offer special programming focused in areas of interest to your child?
4. How does the school integrate technology into the classroom? Is technology integrated into the curriculum? Does the school have a well-equipped media center?
5. How does the school communicate with families? Do the opportunities for parent involvement meet your needs and desires? Are parents involved in their children's education?
6. What is the student-teacher ratio? Will your child get the attention he or she needs to succeed? Are students actively engaged in their education? Is there a sufficient mix of teaching and self-guided instruction to engage your child?
7. Will school or self-provided transportation meet your child's needs? Will transportation capabilities allow your child to participate in the before- or after-school activities that meet his or her needs and interests?
8. Will there be consistency in the curriculum, the staff, and in your child's friends from year to year?
9. How does the school handle disciplinary matters? What is the parent's involvement in disciplinary matters?
10. What is the school doing to meet demands for improved student achievement? Are parents, teachers and administrators actively involved in efforts to ensure curriculum and technology are current and appropriate for student needs?



Schools of Choice Spaces Available by District

*Note – spaces may not be available for every grade.
Be sure to see the district website for full details.*

District	Spaces Available	See District Website:
Byron Center	10 total	bcpsk12.net
Caledonia	125 total	calschools.org
Cedar Springs	100 total	csredhawks.org
Comstock Park	195 total	cppschools.com
East Grand Rapids	15 total	egrps.org
Forest Hills	130 total	fhps.net
Godfrey-Lee	65 total	godfrey-lee.org
Godwin Heights	350 total	godwinschools.org
Grand Rapids	500 total	grps.org
Grandville	180 total	gpsbulldogs.org
Kelloggsville	400 total	kvilleps.org
Kenowa Hills	191 total	khps.org
Kent City	130 total	kentcityschools.org
Kentwood	150 total	kentwoodps.org
Lowell	85 total	lowellschools.com
Northview	220 total	nvps.net
Rockford	200 total	rockfordschools.org
Sparta	190 total	spartaschools.org
Thornapple Kellogg	68 total	tkschools.org
Wyoming	150 total	wyomingps.org

See district website for full details.

Special Considerations for Parents & Students Considering Choice

- Transportation is not provided for Schools of Choice students; parents must provide their own transportation.
- Michigan law and the Kent Intermediate Superintendents' Association agree that siblings should be kept together in a single district whenever possible. As a result, siblings of current Choice students may receive preference in filling district openings.
- The Michigan High School Athletic Association requires students in grades 10-12 to wait one semester after enrolling in a new district (under Schools of Choice) before they can participate in athletics. For more information, visit the FAQ's on MHSAA's website: mhsaa.com/AbouttheMHSAA/FAQs

To learn about school districts for your child, review the district websites, visit the schools, meet district staff and review information on the Michigan Department of Education website, michigan.gov/mde