

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Randall Booker, Superintendent

DATE: March 10, 2021

RE: BP/AR 5117 INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE

I. SUPPORT INFORMATION

The Board of Education has discussed possible edits to BP/AR 5117 Interdistrict Attendance at the January 27 and February 24, 2021 meetings. The Board provided the superintendent with direction to develop additional language in Administrative Regulation 5117 in order to broaden the student racial diversity in PUSD Schools.

The Superintendent is recommending the following changes to Administrative Regulation 5117 as outlined in the following draft AR:

[DRAFT AR 5117 Interdistrict Attendance](#)

This draft AR can also be reviewed at the following URL:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RQwfsB4QgFkYii-ZWIEsdNA4iZnHCHlisTHbusEmAmY/edit?usp=sharing>

Three separate initiatives were discussed during the February 24th meeting in order to help achieve the Board's goal:

1. PUSD Athletic Coaches

Paid contracted athletic coaches may be eligible for admittance to Piedmont schools based on verification of employment. Does not pertain to volunteer coaches. When a District Coach ceases employment with the District, he/she shall withdraw his/her child from the District no later than the end of the current semester or at the discretion of the Superintendent.

2. Persons Employed Within the City of Piedmont Limits

Children of Persons physically employed at least 10 hours a week within the City of Piedmont limits may be eligible for admittance to Piedmont schools. Proof of employment via a letter on employer's stationary verifying schedule (hours and days) and location of employment and a copy of a current pay stub must accompany the application. When the person ceases employment within the City

of Piedmont limits, he/she shall withdraw his/her child from the District no later than the end of the current semester or at the discretion of the Superintendent.

3. Children of the City of Piedmont Government Employees

The District may admit children of City of Piedmont government employees employed at least 10 hours a week. A City government employee is defined as an employee who is on a regularly scheduled City of Piedmont government employee payroll on which appropriate deductions occur. It does not include consultants or contractors for the City of Piedmont.

The Superintendent also recommends that the results of these changes be reviewed annually at a public Board Meeting in order to determine the effectiveness of this policy change toward achieving the Board's goal of broadening the student racial diversity in PUSD Schools.

Background on Current Interdistrict Transfer Policy

Traditionally, each year PUSD accepted a certain number of interdistrict transfer students. These included the children of parents who work for either the school district or the City of Piedmont. Interdistrict transfers may have also included students who would benefit from a program that Piedmont offers that their home district does not, such as those found at Millennium High School.

The PUSD Board of Education last revised BP/AR 5117 Interdistrict Attendance at their June 12, 2019 meeting.

The current BP/AR 5117 Interdistrict Transfer can be found [here](#) or by clicking on the following URL:

<http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/BP-AR-5117-Inter-District-Transfers-061319.pdf>

Enrollment in schools throughout California has been on the decline, including at Piedmont. In order to mitigate the loss of what could be considerable funding for our schools, District staff recommended that the Interdistrict transfer policy be revised to:

1. Permit the option of accepting the Interdistrict transfers of students at all grade levels.
2. Allow for more flexibility in accepting the Interdistrict transfers of families whose grandparents reside in Piedmont.
3. Reflect language that adheres to recent changes in the Education Code.

The Board of Education discussed enrollment and interdistrict transfers at the January 18, February 13, May 18, June 6, September 11, and June 12, 2019 regularly scheduled Board of Education Meetings.

The Board of Education voted unanimously on changes to BP/AR 5117 at the June 12, 2019 meeting.

Highlights to the current policy include:

- The Superintendent or designee may approve interdistrict transfer requests when capacity within the District exists. Students whose requests are denied solely because of lack of capacity within the District will be placed on a waiting list, and their application will be considered if space becomes available.
- The decision to admit out-of-District students is discretionary, when capacity exists; applications may be approved based on the following priorities:
 1. Parents Constructing or Remodeling a Home
 2. High School Juniors and Seniors Who Have Moved Out of the District
 3. Children of Piedmont Unified School District Employees
 4. Children of the City of Piedmont Government Employees
 5. Children of the Piedmont Educational Foundation Director
 6. Children Residing on Calvert Court
 7. Residences on Approved Piedmont Split Parcel Properties
 8. GrandParent – Grandchild of an Individual(s) Who Lives Within the Boundaries of PUSD (*new addition to the policy - 6/12/19*)
 9. Approved Split Parcels with Oakland and Adjoining Minor Piedmont Parcel (*new addition to the policy - 6/12/19*)
 10. All Other Applicants (*new addition to the policy - 6/12/19*)

During the Spring/Summer of 2020, PUSD approved 24 Interdistrict Transfer Applications for the 2020-2021 school year. While the district received a total of 74 applications, the Board directed the Superintendent to limit the number of accepted applications in order to keep class sizes lower during distance learning model of instruction.

The District utilized the priority system as outlined in BP/AR 5117 and accepted applications under priorities #3-9 based on submission and space availability. The District did not receive any applications under priorities #1, 2, 5, and 7. The District did not accept any applications under priority #10.

The chart below indicates the number of acceptances and denials for the 2020-2021 school year.

2020-21 Inter District Transfer Requests By Priority									
	#3 - PUSD Employee	#4 - CoP Employee	#5 - PEF Dir.	#6 - Calvert Court Egress/ Ingress	#7 - Split Parcel Piedmont Address	#8 - Grand parents	#9 - Split Parcel Oakland address	#10 - All Others	Total Applications
TK						1 (did not enroll)	1		2
K	5 (2 did not enroll)	1		1		8		7	22
1	1							3	4
2	1							3	4
3	1 (did not enroll)					3		1	5
4						1		2	3
5	1							4	5
6	2					2		5	9
7								2	2
8								3	3
9	1	1 (did not enroll)				1		9	12
10								1	1
11	1							1	2
	7	2	0	1	0	16	1	41	74
	13 Approved	2 Approved	0	1 Approved	0	7 Approved	1 Approved	0 Approved	24 Approved
	10 enrolled	1 enrolled		1 enrolled		6 enrolled	1 enrolled		19 enrolled
									50 Denied

Please note that race is not a factor in the acceptance of IDT's and identification was only made after the enrollment application had been submitted by the parent.

During the January 27, 2021 Board of Education Meeting, the superintendent reviewed the racial breakdown (by priority classification) of those students accepted for interdistrict transfer. Of the 19 interdistrict transfer students enrolled, 26% reported White, 26% reported Hispanic, 26% reported Asian, 16% reported Black, and 5% reported mixed race.

Due to the small number of applications, it is important that no student identifying information is provided as part of a printed background.

Enrollment Projections

District staff has produced the following enrollment projections at numerous Board of Education and Budget Advisory Committee Meetings; all indicating that the District is projected to decline by 125 students in the next two years:

Grades	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TK-5	1012	976	960	946
6-8	651	590	525	499
9-12	904	899	895	897
Totals (TK-12):	2,567	2,465	2,411	2,340
Cumulative Loss	-	-102	-54	-71

Elementary enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year begins in February. Typically, we communicate an Interdistrict Application submission window that begins in the spring and lasts into the summer.

Adding students by means of interdistrict transfer can bring additional dollars into the district only if we can balance class cohort sizes that do not require the addition of another class.

For example, if the district has 7 spaces in 4th grade open, and we fill them with 7 IDT students, we will not need to add another class/teacher/aide. But if we have 9 4th grade IDT applications submitted and accept them all, we will need to add a whole other class. The expense of this additional class (teacher/aide salaries) far outweighs the dollars we receive for those 9 students.

Over the next several weeks, as elementary enrollment continues, the district will have a better sense of how many spaces will be available for IDT applications.

II. RECOMMENDATION: REVIEW AND ACTION

Since this is the First Reading of the recommended changes to Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance, no action is required at this time.