

Schools of Choice: Administrative Guidelines

Elk Rapids Schools

Grade Level Summary (Approximate as of 5/5/26)

	Recommended Class Size Caps	*Class Size SOC Consideration of Availability	Enrollment Projections 26-27	SOC Openings
6th grade	100	90	82	+8
7th grade	100	90	115	Closed
8th grade	100	90	86	+4
9th grade	100	92	93	Closed
10th grade	100	92	96	Closed
11th grade	100	92	93	Closed
12th grade	100	92	85	+7

*Class Size SOC Consideration Availability: Allows for the likelihood that residential students will move into the district and not increase overall class size above the “cap” per grade level, which could negatively impact personnel/programming needs and parameters of Elk Rapids Schools.

Open Enrollment/Lottery Process

- Open Enrollment Dates: May 26-June 9, 2026
- Review of Applications: June 10, 2026
- Selection/Lottery: June 11, 2026
 - a. Superintendent, Principal, and 1 other staff member present
 - b. Certify that each name is entered into the lottery
 - c. Draw names until every name is drawn, forming a waitlist of names if the number of applicants exceeds the number of open slots
 - d. No preference given for sibling/family connections for new, full family enrollment. (i.e. 3 students from one family apply with no currently enrolled household members.)
 - e. Selected applicants will be contacted via email & phone. Applicants will have until June 30, 2026, to complete all enrollment paperwork and submit to the Elk Rapids Central Office. Failure to do so will result in a loss of opportunity to enroll. Special circumstances will be considered for extension.
 - f. Remaining names on the waitlist will be informed during the beginning of July if they are not selected.

Special Circumstances

1. Prior to performing the lottery process, siblings of students who are attending the district will be identified. Per the school policy, these siblings are to be enrolled prior to the random selection process.
2. Enrollment of out-of-district staff members' children are automatically enrolled. A staff member is defined as any person who provides services and is under contract or agreement for the duration of at least the instructional school year through Elk Rapids Schools' payroll system.
3. In-district students who move out of the district during the school year finish the year at Elk Rapids Schools. Families will need to apply during the next open enrollment period, but will not be exposed to the lottery.
4. If a current school of choice family has a circumstance where a family member moves into the household outside of the open enrollment period, they will be allowed under school policy, which states that any sibling(s) of student(s) who are attending a district under the schools of choice program are given preference. (see Special Circumstance #1)

Transportation

School of Choice enrollees agree to transportation terms that transportation of the school-of-choice student is to/from a predetermined centralized bus stop within the existing residential boundaries of Elk Rapids Schools only. Exceptions to this requirement may be necessary for students with disabilities.