

Michigan Department of Education
Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee

Advisory Practice and Guideline

February 7, 2019

Schools of Choice Transportation Considerations

The sections of the *State School Aid Act* that address “Schools of Choice” are contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.1401, 388.1606, 388.1705, 388.1705c and 388.1707. Michigan law provides “[Schools of Choice](#)” options available to parents and school districts. (Click on Schools of Choice for a review of these options.) A local school board may or may not provide choice enrollment options for students from other school districts.

If a district decides to offer “Schools of Choice” it must inform parents of transportation options. Districts are not required to provide transportation for students under MCL 388.1705 Section [105](#) and MCL 388.1705c Section [105c](#). (Click on 105 and 105c to review these statutes.)

Schools of Choice Considerations:

- I. Before a local school district provides transportation for schools of choice students from within their intermediate school district or a contiguous intermediate school district, the following factors should be taken into consideration:
 - A. A district’s transportation authorization does not extend beyond its resident students. If a district elects to cross district boundaries, ramifications of doing so should be considered.
 - B. Will it disrupt, expand, and extend existing school bus routes?
 - C. Will it violate pupil transportation laws and/or regulations?
 - D. Does it comply with local district pupil transportation policies and procedures?
 - E. Will a local district resident student be unable to receive transportation due to the transportation of “Schools of Choice” student(s)?
 - F. A district enrolling a special needs student from another district located in a contiguous intermediate school district shall have a written agreement with the resident district...the agreement shall include but not be limited to...payment of the added costs of special education programs and services for the pupil.

Student safety is a top priority of the Michigan Department of Education. The Michigan Department of Education, upon the recommendation of the Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee, recommends the implementation of this practice for all pupil transportation providers.