



AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



### **SCHOOL CHOICE GUIDELINES:**

Unless accepted into the Amherst, Pelham, or Amherst-Pelham School Choice Program, non-resident students must attend school in the town in which they reside. The School Choice Program, permits non-resident students the opportunity to attend our schools while residing in a surrounding town. Each of the three districts of the Amherst-Pelham Schools must annually vote to participate in the School Choice program, which is generally voted in February or March of the preceding school year.

There are a limited number of School Choice seats, and an application is required for each student applying. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but they must be received by a deadline which is annually established - generally in mid-June of the school year preceding. Applications from siblings of students already enrolled in the Amherst-Pelham Schools under the School Choice program and who will remain in the School Choice program during that school year will, by law, receive priority in acceptance for available Choice seats. Once siblings have been placed, and if there are more sibling applicants than the number of seats, a lottery will be conducted to determine placement. Should the number of applications exceed the number of vacancies, all applicants not accepted will be randomly selected and placed, in the order of their selection, on a waiting list.

Parents will receive a Notice of Acceptance indicating their child's status (tentative seat awarded or wait list status) via mail, which must be returned by the deadline to the Superintendent's Office at Central Office, 170 Chestnut Street, Amherst, MA 01002. If your child is accepted into the Choice program, the student is entitled to attend the Amherst Schools through high school graduation, if continuously enrolled.

Please be aware that your child may be denied a School Choice Seat based on past school disciplinary actions in accordance with MA General Laws.

Bus Transportation is not available for School Choice students. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the parents/Guardians to provide daily transportation and to ensure students arrive at school on time and are promptly picked-up after school.

The School Choice Lottery will take place in June, with notifications mailed the following week.

Please be aware that residents of Amherst, Pelham, or the four towns which comprise the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools who move out of the district but wish to have their child(ren) remain as students in the district do not have any unique claim to the seats their children vacated. Those parents must apply for admission to the school choice program in the same manner as any other parent who does not reside in town.