
JFABG: SELECTION OF SCHOOLS FOR VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL STUDENTS

Category:

File: JFABG

Farmington River Regional School District

1st Reading: 12-01-2025

2nd Reading: 01-05-2026

Adopted: 01-05-2026

The Farmington River Regional School Committee (“the Committee”) recognizes the right of a student residing in either of the two towns that constitute the Farmington River Regional School District (FRRSD) to attend a vocational/technical training school in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with M.G.L. c.74, § 7.

The Committee also acknowledges the stated interest expressed by representatives of the two towns for the Committee to designate “preferred” high school(s) for students residing in that town who seek to take advantage of the right conferred by the aforesaid statute, viz., to attend said high school for the purpose of pursuing a course of study in a Chapter 74-approved program. And the Committee further acknowledges both the oversight by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of Chapter 74-approved programs throughout the Commonwealth, and the standards DESE demands of any program in order for it to receive and retain its Chapter 74-approved status. To accommodate the rights and interests of all the parties mentioned above, including the interest expressed by FRRSD member towns, and to provide high quality Chapter 74 programming to the students residing in FRRSD who seek such programming, the Committee adopts the following as its policy in this regard.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A student residing in either of the towns that constitute the Farmington River Regional School District (FRRSD) who seeks to be admitted to a high school for a Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program may apply to any high school that offers a Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program in which that student is interested. A student’s request for non-resident tuition and transportation under the “Chapter 74 Vocational-Technical Education Tuition and Transportation Option” shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools by not later than April 1 for the Superintendent’s consideration based on pertinent criteria, including the availability of the same or substantially similar program at a high school closer to the student’s residence than the one to which admission is being sought. A student’s parent or guardian or a school that has been disapproved for non-resident tuition by the Superintendent may request that the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education review the denial of tuition in accordance with the DESE guidelines.

2. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN TOWNS

Section 1 notwithstanding, a student residing in a town listed in Section 3 below who seeks to be admitted to a high school for a specific Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program

shall, in addition to applying to any other high school of the student's choosing that offers the program, apply to each of the preferred high schools for that town, as listed in Section 3 below, that offer that program.

3. PREFERRED SCHOOLS FOR CERTAIN TOWNS' RESIDENTS

The preferred vocational-technical schools for specific towns of FRRSD are as follows:

Town of Otis:

Smith Vocational-Agricultural High School

Westfield Technical High School

Town of Sandisfield:

Monument Mountain HS (Horticulture, Early Childhood Education, Automotive)

Taconic High School (for other vocational/technical programs)

Smith Vocational-Agricultural High School (if desired vocational/technical program is not offered by Monument Mountain or Taconic HS)

4. STUDENT'S NON-ACCEPTANCE AT A PREFERRED SCHOOL

If a student residing in a town listed in Section 3, above, who has applied to be admitted to a high school for a specific Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program, is not accepted at one of the preferred schools for her/his town, or is wait-listed for admission at all the preferred schools they have been accepted to, but is accepted to another high school for that program, then the non-resident tuition and transportation for the student's attendance at the high school to which she/he has been accepted will be provided in accordance with the policy and process described in the "Guidelines for the Vocational Technical Education Program Non-resident Student Tuition Process," pursuant to M.G.L. c. 74 that is found at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website, http://www.doe.mass.edu/cte/admissions/nonres_guidelines.html

5. PROGRAM NOT OFFERED BY PREFERRED SCHOOL

If the Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program sought by a student residing in a town listed in Section 3, above, is not offered by the preferred schools for that student's town, then said student may apply for admission to the high school that offers the Chapter 74-approved program said student is seeking.

6. TRANSFER FROM A PREFERRED SCHOOL TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

A student who attends a high school for a Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program pursuant to Sections 2 and 3, above, shall not transfer to another high school for a specific Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program without the prior written approval of the Superintendent of Schools of the FRRSD, who may require that the student or her/his parent or guardian, as applicable, provide sufficient documentation, including documentation of sound educational and

other pertinent reasons for seeking the transfer, as will enable the Superintendent to make an informed decision.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS POLICY

This policy shall be effective for the application period for the 2026-2027 school year, and shall apply to any student residing at that time in a town listed in Section 3, above, who seeks to be admitted to a high school for a specific Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program, and who first attends said high school in the 2026-2027 school year. This policy shall continue in effect in each subsequent school year, unless and until amended or rescinded by the Farmington River Regional School Committee.