

SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM *2026-2027*

Vermont students may apply to attend any public high school in the state of Vermont (Act 129 of 2012). The Vermont Agency of Education has provided guidelines for determining how many students must be allowed to transfer out, and may be allowed to transfer into each individual school. Each school makes their own determination based on these AOE guidelines. **Transportation for school choice students is the responsibility of the students' families.**

School choice applications will be made available on **January 1st**. Students who are interested in participating in school choice should complete the school choice form and return it to their current school registrar's office on or before **March 1st**. After receiving the application, our registrar will forward it to the desired school of choice. If more students want to transfer out than there are slots available, a lottery is held, and students are assigned a numbered place on the list.

At the receiving school, students who have selected that school as their first choice are considered first. If there are more students than there are spaces available, a lottery is held. This step is repeated (for second and third choice) if there are more spaces available after the lottery. Students who are not selected in lotteries, or who apply after March 1st will be placed on a numbered waiting list. Students who apply but are not granted school choice may request to be put in the lottery for the following school year.

Students must maintain certain behavioral guidelines to retain their School Choice slot. Students who elect School Choice have the option of returning to Winooski High School, if they so desire, unless they have been expelled from the school they elected to attend. The appropriate time to return would be at the beginning of the next school year.

Students will be notified in writing of the results of their application no later than April 1st. Students must make a decision and notify both their home and choice school by April 15th in order to secure their spot for the following school year.

If you have any questions, please contact our registrar, Catherine Holly, at cholly@wsdvt.org or 802-383-6106. You may also [explore school choice further at the VT Agency of Education website.](#)

For Office Use Only

Home School Instructions

- When the School Choice application has been approved by the home school principal, fax a copy to the choice school as soon as possible.
- Cooperating principals make “good standing” determination.
- Once the lottery has been completed, the principal or their designee of the student’s home school will notify the family of their selection into the choice program.
- If a student does not make it into the choice program, the family will be notified in writing and will be given his/her ranking from the lottery.
- The principal will notify the choice school of the acceptance or rejection of the choice program.

Choice School Instructions

- Once the application is received and approved by the choice school principal, please fax a copy back to the home school for their records.
- Assure that your district is able to enroll the student in line with regard to “caps” or agreement.
- Contact parent/guardian of applicant to setup enrollment appointment.
- Request records from the home school guidance department.



The deadline for School Choice is March 1, 2026. A lottery will be conducted to fill available school choice slots for their coming school year the first week of March 1. Applicants will be informed by their home high school regarding their status by April 1. Applications received after March 1 may be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on slots still available at a high school and individual school choice procedures.

Please note: Only a limited number of school choice slots are available each year. Every school has a different number of slots depending on the size of the school and limits established in congruence with VT Law.

Please contact Catherine Holly at 802-383-6106 or cholly@wsdvt.org with additional questions.

Student

Legal Name:	DOB:
Email:	Gender: Grade:

Guardians

	Guardian 1	Guardian 2
Name:		
Phone:		
Email:		
Address:		
	Does the student live here? Yes / No	Does the student live here? Yes / No

Are you anticipating a change in residency status (will you be moving) at any time during the next school year? If so, please explain below:

School Choice

Office Use

First:

Sent on:
Accepted: Y / N

Second (if interested):

Sent on:
Accepted: Y / N

Third (if interested):

Sent on:
Accepted: Y / N

Please indicate below why you are interested in school choice. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of school choice, it is helpful to know the reasons why students wish to attend other schools.

Signatures

We have read and understand the guidelines pertaining to the School Choice Program. We understand that parents and guardians are responsible for the transportation of their student to and from the choice school and that the student must adhere to the academic and behavioral expectations of the choice school district. Acceptance into a School Choice Program is contingent upon a determination by cooperating schools that a student is in good standing. Any student who has been expelled will not be eligible to return to WHS for the remainder of that school year. If a student wishes to terminate enrollment at the receiving school, they must notify that school by July 15th. They may return to WHS provided that their family still resides in Winooski.

Please note that signatures mean your application has been received and forwarded and **does not** mean you have been accepted for school choice. Should you be accepted for school choice, you will receive a notice from the receiving school inviting you to register.

Student:

Date:

Guardian:

Date:

Principal (Sending School):

Date:

Principal (Receiving School):

Date: