

St. Johns County School District
40 Orange Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
(904) 547-7500
www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Joseph Joyner, Ed. D.
Superintendent



January 31, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that this letter finds you and your child(ren) enjoying a successful school year. The purpose of this letter is to provide updated and new information regarding the Hardship Out of Zone Waiver process, and the recent changes in Attendance Zones in our School District. If you already have at least one child on an approved 2013-14 Out of Zone Hardship Transfer waiver, or, if your residence falls within one of the geocode areas that have been rezoned for the 2014-15 school year, the following process applies.

- **CURRENT HARDSHIP OUT OF ZONE STATUS:** If you have a child on an approved 2013-14 Out of Zone Hardship, this waiver will expire at the end of this school year. At that time, your child will be reassigned to your zoned school for the 2014-15 school year. If you would like your child to remain at the out of zone school he/she is currently attending, you **must apply for an Out of Zone Hardship waiver again**. The request may only be approved if your reason meets the criteria for a hardship.
- **GRANDFATHERING PROVISIONS FOR NEW ATTENDANCE ZONES:** Please note that these grandfathering provisions apply to families presently attending the schools that have been rezoned, for their fifth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade children only. Two new K-8 schools will open in August, 2014. For the first school year (2014-15,) the new schools will house students in grades K – 7. Rising eighth grade students will remain at their currently zoned middle school **with** transportation provided.
 - Rising fifth grade students being rezoned to Ocean Palms Elementary may remain at PV-PV/Rawlings Elementary, if they submit an Out of Zone Hardship Transfer Application to the School Services Department. Transportation would **not** be provided.
 - Rising tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students in Aberdeen (geocode 038109) who are already enrolled at Creekside High School may remain, if they submit an Out of Zone Hardship Transfer Application. Transportation would **not** be provided.
 - Rising fifth grade students will not be grandfathered at Durbin Creek, Hickory Creek, or Ocean Palms Elementary Schools.

For information regarding the changes in our Attendance Zones, please visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/rules/zoning/>, or call 547.7680.

The transfer request process will begin on Tuesday, February 18, 2014. You will have until **April 30, 2014** to submit your request. The sooner your application is received, the sooner your child's class schedule for next school year may be completed. Please be sure to mention that you are applying for the "grandfathered" condition if you are submitting an Out of Zone Application based on one of the grandfathering provisions permitted above. Your prompt attention to submitting an application will assist your school in preparing to meet requirements for state and federal funding, class size compliance, and other governmental and administrative applications. The application will be available in both an electronic version (available February 18th on our website) and a paper version. Both applications and the directions for the process can be found on our district website at: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/schoolserv/transfers>. Additionally, please note that transportation will not be provided to students who receive an approved out of zone waiver.

A paper application can be sent home with your child if requested from your current school office. Should you decide to apply for a Hardship Out of Zone waiver, you will receive an electronic reply to the email address you provide on the application, within approximately three weeks from the date we receive your request. If an email address is not available, we will mail you a copy of the decision.

We look forward to working with you to address your needs. If you have any questions regarding the out of zone hardship transfer process, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 547.7583.

Sincerely,

Paul Abbatinuzzi
Director, Department for School Services

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The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.

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