



Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent
Date: May 9, 2025

Helping Families Find the Right Fit – Hardship Application Period Opens May 15th

As we come to the close of another fantastic school year, I want to take a moment to address something that matters deeply to many families in our community: *What school will my child attend next year?*

First, let me share that there are no changes to current school zones for the 2025–2026 school year. Bay District Schools remains committed to maintaining stability in our zoning map across Bay County.

While most families choose to send their students to the school they're zoned for, we understand that some families have unique needs. Whether it's related to transportation, after-school care, or the desire to keep siblings together, we recognize that each family has its own set of circumstances.

Beginning May 15th, families can submit Hardship Applications via the FOCUS Parent Portal for the 2025-2026 school year. This is your opportunity to share any specific needs or situations that might make another school a better fit. Although we strive to accommodate as many requests as possible, please note that some schools may not be able to accept new applications due to space limitations. Regardless, our goal remains the same: to help every family find the right educational fit.

Before submitting a Hardship Application, I encourage you to visit both your zoned school and the one you're considering. Touring the campus, meeting school leaders, and exploring available programs will help you determine which school is the best match for your student's needs.

At Bay District Schools, we're united by our commitment to support every student and family. No matter which campus a student calls home, you can trust they're part of a school community deeply invested in their academic and personal success. I believe deeply in the work happening across our entire district, and I'm proud of the difference each school makes in helping students thrive.

If you believe your family's situation calls for special consideration in school placement, the Hardship Application will be available starting May 15th through the Parent Portal—and will remain open until May 1, 2026. For assistance or questions, feel free to contact our School Choice team at 850-767-4328.

Thank you for entrusting us with your student's educational needs. Wherever they end up, we're honored to be part of their journey.

Let's continue working together to put the "A" back in Bay!