

# **Somerset Public Schools Buffer Zone Policy**

## **I. Establishment of Buffer Zones**

In order to help mitigate overcrowding in a grade or school and/or help maintain balanced class sizes across our elementary schools, the School Committee may establish school attendance “buffer zones” i.e. addresses or groups of addresses on or near elementary school district boundaries from which new students may be assigned by the Superintendent or his/her designee to any of the immediate school districts.

While committed to neighborhood elementary schools, the School Committee believes buffer zones are a necessary component of any strategy to manage the impacts of enrollment growth because they provide the Superintendent or his/her designee greater flexibility to assign students to schools where space and resources afford the best possible education for those students.

## **II. Sibling Assignment**

Siblings in a given family will be assigned to the same school.

## **III. Periodic Review, Modification, Expansion or Reassessment of Buffer Zone Need**

In order to underscore the School Committee’s objective of maintaining strong neighborhood schools and reducing the uncertainty felt by some families who move into buffer zones, the School Committee shall periodically review the need for buffer zones based on enrollment as well as the experience of the community with the buffer zones. Based on any such review, the School Committee may modify or expand buffer zones to include additional schools for potential student assignment provided, however, that such review does not guarantee repeal of any given buffer zone.

## **IV. Public Access to Buffer Zone Information**

A current map of buffer zones and street list shall be available on the School Department’s website or in print form upon request.