

Fremont Unified School District

Questions and Answers about Overloads

1. What is an Overload Student?

An overload student is one in grades K- 6 for whom there is no room in the student's grade at the home school. There is a student teacher ratio of 24:1 at schools in grades TK, K, and 1st grade; 28:1 in 2nd grade and a student/teacher ratio of 30:1 in grades 3 - 6. An overload student is any student enrolled after the class size ratio has been reached.

2. What causes overloading?

Many of our elementary schools have general overcrowding. The addition of extra classrooms and students would tax the already overburdened restrooms, multi-use rooms and playground spaces. Overloading at other schools is the result of two factors:

- Board adopted contractual class size maximums: The contract between Fremont Unified School District and the Fremont Unified District Teachers' association requires student/teacher ratios be maintained as stated above.
- District financial constraints: Fremont Unified does not have resources to provide a new classroom and a new teacher for less than the stated student to teacher ratio. Example: If we have 33 third graders we cannot create a class for 3 additional third graders. These three third graders are then "overloaded".

3. Who is overloaded?

When the district must send students out of their home school, it will be done in the fairest way possible. Overload students are selected by the date of the completed registration. Students who register first have first priority for spaces at the school.

Schools prioritize in the following order:

- Residents by registration date (includes overload students)
- Lottery students
- Students with approved intra-district transfers (from schools within FUSD.)
- Students with approved inter-district transfers.

We try to keep siblings being overloaded together. If one of your children must be overloaded, we will try to find a school that can also accommodate his/her siblings if you request this.

4. How long will my child be overloaded?

Your child will be overloaded until there is an available space at your child's home school. The time frame depends on two things- your child's registration date (students are called back to the home school based on their registration date) and the turnover rate at your home school. Once you are overloaded to a school, your child remains at that school until there is space at the home school. This time frame could be a few days, weeks, months, or an indefinite period of time. The turn over of students during the school year is difficult to predict.

To ensure stability in classrooms, we do not call students back to their home school after January 31st. If you wish to have your child return to the home school after January 31st, please inform your home school.

If you move out of your school's attendance area, you will need to register at your new home school within 5 days of your change of residence. Your child will have a new registration date and the new home school will advise you of your placement options.

5. Does the fact that I live close to the school or within an attendance area make a difference?

No. Students are overloaded based on the date and time of their completed registration.

6. Does the fact that I own my residence make a difference?

No. Renters and buyers have equal access to public education.

7. Does the length of time I have lived in an attendance area make a difference?

No. The registration date determines who is overloaded, regardless of the time someone has lived within the attendance area.

8. What school will my child attend? Will I have a choice?

The home school will overload your child to the nearest school that has space and is accessible by district transportation. If you wish to have your child attend another school, you must complete an intra-district transfer. If the transfer request is approved, parents are responsible for transportation. Because of capacity, some schools may be closed to intra-district transfers. You must apply for an intra-district transfer every year.

Every year an open enrollment lottery is held during March, allowing parents an opportunity to select a school that has available space for their child. If the child's name is selected, the child will be allowed to attend the new school and will be considered a resident of that school. Look for information about the lottery in school newsletters and/or on the FUSD website: www.fremont.k12.ca.us.

9. What if my child does not want to go back to his/her home school?

If your child is not offered a space at his/her home school by the end of month in September, your child will be able to stay at the overload school for the remainder of the year without loss of his/her registration date status at the home school. If your child does not go back, the school will call the next student on the overload list. The next year, your child will again be contacted in accordance with your child's registration date. If there is space available at the home school the following year and you want your child to remain at the overload school, you must apply for an intra-district transfer. This is not a guarantee that the transfer will be approved, as space for transfers at that school may not be available.

10. How many students in the district are overloaded?

In September 2014, there were 18,680 students enrolled in Grades K-6. 500 students were overloaded.

11. How do I appeal my child's overload situation?

Meet with your home school principal regarding the overload situation. The principal will try to resolve your issues and/or explain other placement options.

12. How does overloading work before school starts in September?

- Student Support Services notifies the parent that the child may be overloaded and placement at the home school is “tentative.”
- Before school opens in the fall students are moved only after we determine there is no room at the home school. Whenever possible, we place the child in the same attendance area as the home school.

13. How does overloading work when a student registers after school begins?

- The parent is told at the time of registration that the student will be overloaded.
- The student is placed at a school where there is room.

14. What if transportation is needed?

If needed, the Transportation Department will set up busing for a student who is overloaded by his/her home school. The procedure for this process is:

- Parents submit a request to the Transportation Department.
- Parents bring their child to the Transportation Office to have a photo ID taken.
- Parents choose the type of bus pass needed from the options available. Payment is due at the time the student’s photo is taken. It could take 3-4 days for busing to be put into place after the photo ID has been taken.

15. Who pays for the transportation?

Parents pay for all FUSD transportation, except for transportation paid for by the Special Services department. Several options for bus passes are available depending on the need. Please contact the Transportation Department for information regarding bus pass options, costs, and information regarding Free Busing program for qualified applicants.

Transportation's phone number is 510-657-1450.

16. What happens when a student moves from one school to another school during the year?

- The parent must register the student at the new home school.
- If there is no space at the new home school, but there is room available at another school within the attendance area, the student will be overloaded to that school. If there is no room at the new home school and no room in any school in the attendance area, the student will stay at the previous school until the end of the school year. In the fall, the student will attend the new home school if there is space, or be overloaded to the closest school that has space available.

17. What do I do if I get called back to my home school after being overloaded?

If you get called back to your home school before September 30th of the current year, you must return to your home school.