

**McGraw Mission: *Fostering Internationally-minded, life-long learners who all thrive in and positively shape our global community.***

# **McGraw Elementary Access Policy**



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## Access Philosophy

As an internationally-minded learning community, McGraw Elementary ensures that all students - regardless of their background, culture, identity, preferred learning modalities, language profile, strengths and needs - have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate the attributes of the IB Learner Profile through the Primary Years Program. In the process, we empower an inclusive environment of learners who all thrive in and positively shape our global community.

### **We believe that...**

- All students benefit from full access to the Primary Years Program at McGraw.
- Our school community is enriched by the diversity of its members, both those living within and outside of our attendance area.

## Participation in the Primary Years Program at McGraw

As a US public school in Poudre School District in the state of Colorado, McGraw Elementary provides full access to the Primary Years Program for all students who attend McGraw. This includes students from within our attendance area and students who are registered into our school from outside our attendance area through the Poudre School District school of choice process.

## Legislation and Requirements

The following detail state and local legislation and requirements related to access to the Primary Years Program at McGraw.

### **Colorado School Attendance Law of 1963:**

[C.R.S. 22-33-105 And 106, Title 22: Education, School Districts, Article 33: School Attendance Law Of 1963](#)

The School Attendance Law requires that every Colorado resident between ages 6 and 21 is entitled to attend public school in the district where he or she is a resident, except for a limited number of circumstances. The following may be grounds for denial of admission to a public school:

1. Physical or mental disability such that the child cannot reasonably benefit from the programs available;
2. Physical or mental disability or disease causing the attendance of the child suffering therefrom to be unfavorable to the welfare of other students.
3. Having been expelled from any school district during the preceding twelve months;
4. Not being a resident of the district (based on available space in the school)

## **Public School of Choice law in Colorado:**

### **C.R.S. 22-36-101. Choice of programs and schools within school districts.**

The Public Schools of Choice law allows resident pupils to enroll at schools in Colorado districts for which they are not zoned. Also referred to as [Open Enrollment](#).

Students who are accepted into a Colorado public school through a school of choice process are registered and given the same access to educational programs at the school as students who live in that school's attendance area.

### **Poudre School District Registration Requirements and Procedures**

All new and returning K-12 students register at their neighborhood school.

- Kindergarten students must be five and first-grade students must be six on or before Oct. 1. ([Superintendent's Policy JEB](#)). [Learn more about kindergarten registration](#)
- Returning students are students who left PSD and are returning back to a PSD school. Current PSD students do not need to re-register every year to go back to the same school.

Students wishing to attend a school outside their attendance area must submit a [School Choice application](#). Online registration is available for new and returning students.

#### **Registration for PSD students moving to a new school**

- Current PSD students who are moving to a new school should contact their current school to withdraw and their new school to register.

## **Rights and Responsibilities of Members of the School Community**

Stakeholder groups in our learning community take the following actions to put our access philosophy and policy into practice.

#### **Leadership:**

- Post and communicate enrollment and registration processes on the school website.
- Communicate that all students at our school participate in the IB program.

**Teachers/Staff:** Understand and promote our school's culture and the district school of choice registration policy.

**Families and Guardians:** Follow processes and procedures related to enrollment and registration.

## Resources

Utilization and development of the following human, natural, built and virtual resources support implementation of McGraw's access policy.

The McGraw administrative staff, office staff and PYP coordinator are able to articulate and provide parents with support related to district school enrollment and registration processes, including school choice in Poudre School District. The McGraw website contains information, which will be frequently updated, related to current district enrollment, school choice and registration processes.

## Policy Review, Development and Communication

McGraw's access policy is a living document that will be revisited by our staff annually. Formal review and revision of the policy will take place at least once during each 5-year IB program evaluation cycle or more frequently as needed. As changes are made to any of McGraw's other IB policies (academic integrity, assessment, inclusion, and language policies) those changes will be articulated across policies and, where appropriate, reflected within the access policy.

When changes to the access policy are proposed, the input of staff (including classroom teachers, specialist teachers and support staff), parents and community members (through our School Accountability Committee and Parent IB Ambassadors) and students (through our student leadership team and our IB Student Ambassadors) will be requested and considered during the revision process. Policy review and revision work will be led by the members of the McGraw IB Leadership Team.

Our staff can view the access policy through a shared Google Drive folder. The access policy will be shared with families and our community via our school website and articles in the school newsletter which reference components of the policy. School administrators and instructional staff are knowledgeable about the access policy and able to discuss the contents of the policy with parents.

## Definitions of Terms

**Access:** The extent to which students are able to participate in learning opportunities.

**Open Enrollment:** The opportunity and related processes to enroll a student in a school outside of their zoned attendance area.

## References

[PSD School Registration Website](#)

[Colorado Department of Education](#)