



Missouri school board restores transfer rights for certain students

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JEFFERSON CITY • The rules concerning Normandy transfer students changed once again Tuesday, with the Missouri Board of Education allowing some students to remain in their new schools after telling them in June they couldn't stay.

After meeting in closed session, the board emerged to reverse its decision that had closed the transfer option for about 130 students, many whom had lived in the Normandy School District for years but had attended private schools in 2012-13.

Last week, seven parents sued the board, the Normandy Schools Collaborative and six area school districts because their children had been told they could not continue as transfer students as a result of the June decision.

Their children had transferred under a 2013 Missouri Supreme Court ruling that allows children living in unaccredited districts to attend higher-performing schools.

The vote is just another twist in the school transfer saga, which has left hundreds of students uncertain of where they'll attend school in the coming year.

Tuesday's vote won't mean that all of the 130 students affected will be able to continue as transfer students.

School districts are no longer obligated to continue enrolling students from Normandy, which is being restructured by the state and will no longer fall under the transfer law.

School boards including those from Francis Howell, Ritenour, Pattonville and Ferguson-Florissant have told Normandy transfer students they cannot return. Last week, the University City School Board voted to allow 80 Normandy students to remain in their schools, after having voted earlier in the month to return them to Normandy.

Diane McCrary, whose daughter transferred into Brentwood Middle School last year, said she was elated by the state board's decision Tuesday. She has owned a home in the Normandy district for 14 years, she said, and had sent her daughter to private schools.

"That is wonderful," McCrary said. "I am so happy to hear that. ... I was looking at having to go rent an apartment or something for my daughter to continue her education in



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Brentwood.”

Some members of the Missouri Board of Education had expressed concern that parents had moved into the Normandy district last summer just to have their pick of high-performing school districts. Staff at the state education department had no data to prove this and suggested the theory was merely conjecture.

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Tags Missouri Board Of Education, Missouri Supreme Court, Normandy, Normandy School District

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