

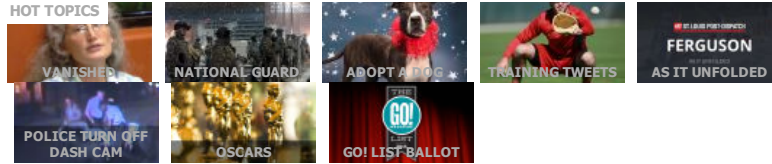
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New deadline for Normandy transfer students

February 19, 2015 10:30 pm • By Jessica Bock

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Normandy High School. Photo by Rick Graefe

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Missouri's department of education has extended the deadline for Normandy students to transfer from failing schools in light of a recent court ruling.

Normandy parents now have until April 1 to file the paperwork and request to transfer their students for the 2015-16 school year, officials with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education said Thursday.

The previous deadline was Jan. 30. But on Feb. 11, a St. Louis County Circuit Court judge ruled that area school districts cannot reject transfer students from the Normandy Schools Collaborative and that the Missouri Board of Education must assign the district an "unaccredited" rating. Normandy is required to pay tuition of students who transfer under the state law that gives children in unaccredited districts access to better schools, Judge Michael Burton ruled.

The new deadline allows more students to transfer from Normandy, where the cost of tuition and transportation for its students to accredited schools nearly bankrupt the district last year. In the past, officials with the Missouri education department have said that Normandy would financially fail if the school system had to pay tuition for more than 500 transfer students, under the current tuition formula.

The Children's Education Alliance of Missouri, a school choice group that financed the lawsuit, had called for the extension after the ruling this month.

"We anticipate that many more families in that district are considering their options," said Peter Franzen, assistant executive director.

Under the transfer law, upheld by the Missouri Supreme Court in 2013, about 420 students from Normandy are attending schools outside of its boundaries this year. For the 2015-16 school year, 85 applied to transfer when the deadline was Feb. 1.

Normandy restarted as a new district last year after the Missouri Board of Education gave it a new name and accreditation rating as a "state oversight district" to get around the law and reduce the financial impact of the law. In

Judge rules districts cannot reject Normandy transfer students



St. Louis County Circuit Judge Michael Burton removes any option

for area districts to reject Normandy students seeking better schools [Read more](#)

Transfer law debate heats up in Mo. Legislature

UPDATED at 12:28 p.m. with additional Senate debate. [Read more](#)

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2013-14, 1,100 children left the district and 3,000 children stayed.

Several school boards initially voted to no longer accept Normandy transfer students, but soon after reversed the decision. That came after many students already had planned to return to Normandy, so the number of transfers was much less this year. The Francis Howell School District was the only district that requires Normandy transfer students to have a court order to be enrolled this year.

Missouri lawmakers continue to work on modifying the transfer law to reduce the financial burdens on struggling districts. Last year, their attempt to make the transfer situation more sustainable received a veto from Gov. Jay Nixon, because the legislation included an option to transfer to a private, nonreligious schools.

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