

Opinion

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(A/E)

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Teacher transfer stirs up pros and cons

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers: How do you feel about Farmington teachers being allowed to transfer to another school in the middle of a school year?

Following are the responses:

I feel a teacher should complete her year once she begins. The transfer should be effective the following September. However, if the teacher is confronted with parent conflict perhaps she and her students better not expose themselves to each other. I think the parents should support the new teacher as she is probably having a very difficult time.

I don't see anything wrong with it if it is a personal pressing need.

The transfer policy is a real disservice to both the teacher and the children but I feel the new teacher needs the support of the parents and the children, otherwise the remainder of the year will be unhappy for all.

Farmington teachers certainly should be allowed to transfer in mid-year or at any time of the year. If there is a job opening that looks more appealing, more geared to their own basic skills that they have been taught in college. Also, in society today, does anybody not change jobs if there is a better job out there that is more to his liking, or even more money?

Yes, teachers should be allowed to transfer in the middle of the school year. What about the responsibility to themselves? Children adjust rather well. It is the parents that need to be educated and how to utilize the school and work with the teachers.

I don't feel they should be able to transfer in the middle of the school year. Their contract was signed at the beginning of the year, their class assignments were assigned at the beginning of the year. They should stay for the remainder of the year. Absolutely not be allowed to transfer.

I don't feel that teachers should have

the right to transfer from one school to another in the same district during the school year. And in future contract negotiations this right should definitely be revoked.

I approve of such transfers. School is a place of learning and students should be prepared to accept changes because they will be facing changes all through life. I may sympathize with the parents but this is how I feel.

They should be allowed to transfer to another school in the middle of the school year. There are certain circumstances where they may need to. If a teacher were to die or get extremely ill or there are any number of reasons where a teacher would have to leave the position but it shouldn't be done unless it is absolutely necessary.

I am opposed to the transfer because I think it is disruptive and I think a teacher should be able to endure one school year before making a change.

I am opposed to teachers transfer in the middle of the year. I don't know of any other school district that allows this and I think it is an extreme hardship on the children.

I am really disappointed. I think that is very stupid. I am sad to see my teacher leave.

I feel it is extremely disruptive to the children for a teacher to leave in the middle of the school year. It is very hard for them to understand the meaning of this and they take it very personally.

If there is legitimate need for a transfer there should be no uproar. It is about time parents realized that their constant criticism of schools and teachers does more harm to their children than a transfer of a teacher.

I am sure that the teacher that is going to replace the transferred teacher will be as capable. Children need to adapt to change and to be flexible. That

oral quarrel

is one part of life that we all have to deal with.

I certainly do believe that teachers should be allowed to transfer to another school and I think that you have to look at the special kids at Forrest Elementary School. There is a tremendous amount of pressure put on those teachers by those mothers who will not stay home. They want to be in the classroom and they want to tell the teachers how to run the school. If the administration would just buckle down a bit, we would have a lot less problems in Farmington Schools.

I believe transfers in between schools is totally inappropriate because students are adversely affected and forced to make adjustments to the teaching styles. Instruction is disrupted. By accepting a specific position, the teacher has made a commitment to the school and students. The union contract specifically identifies involuntary transfers as disruptive but strangely condones the voluntary transfers.

I believe teachers should have the right to go wherever they feel their talents can be best utilized in teaching youngsters. Teachers should have the right to move to better themselves.

Forrest was not the only school in Farmington to have a teacher switch during this past month. I know I speak for many parents when I express the feeling that these teachers have acted extremely selfishly. I appreciate that the transfer may be personally fulfilling for the teacher involved but what about the 20 or 30 youngsters they desert in midstream?

The Forrest teacher exercised her right to transfer under her contract signed by the Board of Education. Ward members should accept their responsibilities for their own policies in

stead of cowardly redirecting angry parents to the administration. Children are far more resilient to change than their parents.

I feel that teachers have a right to transfer in the middle of the year. Parents decide on a divorce. They don't think about the kids and wait until the summer and that is just as much of an upset as a teacher leaving. If you sell a house in November and you're moving in December or January, it is the same thing. Up and leaving a place and you can't stop and think about that.

I was very upset by the article when I read it. I am a Farmington teacher. I feel teachers should be allowed to transfer in the middle of the year for their own good and for the good of the children. We are in certain situations that are very difficult. Forrest has a reputation for being the worst school in Farmington. Perhaps the newspaper should explore that instead of why teachers want to transfer.

I am opposed to teachers being able to transfer in the middle of the year. This can be extremely disruptive to a child. No way can this be beneficial. You can lose a child educationally for the rest of the school year.

I think they should be allowed to transfer as in any other industry. When the parents were transferred they had a better opportunity.

Absolutely. Farmington teachers should have the opportunity to change jobs at mid-year. Where in this world do you not have a chance to change jobs if there is a better offering, a better opening, less stress, better working conditions or more salary. Everyone of those conditions do exist in the world

today so why should teachers be denied that.

I am opposed to teachers being transferred in mid-year. My child has been in a situation two times where his teacher left in the middle of the year and it really disrupts the continuity of the program and makes the child readjust all over again to a new teacher. Very, very, very disruptive.

Teachers have every right to move according to their contract in Farmington. Parents in Forrest School should ask why so many teachers have left that school within the last few years.

Teachers should have the same rights as anyone else to change jobs and it can't always be at the beginning of a school year.

Children have for various reasons had to have new teachers during a school year for many years and I don't believe that a good, sound child, emotionally, physically, etc. is going to hurt your little psyche one bit.

Having put four children through

Forrest School, I definitely feel these teachers should be allowed to transfer in mid-year. The pushy, demanding, self-centered Forrest parents drive them to it.

I feel that the teachers should have the right to transfer to another school if there is an opening that they are interested in. I do not feel that it hurts the children to become acquainted with another teacher and it may be that particular teacher who does want to transfer has many reasons for finding that another school and another assignment is more suitable for their talent.

I certainly think that a teacher can change her position in the middle of the year. Children are going to meet a lot of adjustments through their life and they may just as well start in grade school. I understand it is in the contract and so I think this contract should be followed.

I really don't think this article has any business being in the paper and I think the question applies to other situations and it just so happens that once in while it happens in the middle of the year but usually not. I don't think it fair to air this in the paper in the way it has been aired.

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