

March 30, 2009

Assigned enrollment is the way to go

I am a clinical nurse at University Hospitals, and my husband is a faculty member at the College of Dentistry. We are both graduates from the University of Iowa. Two years ago, after living in Colorado for 25 years, my family and I made the decision to move back to Iowa City. It was at that time, while researching a home to purchase, that we learned of the enrollment policy for new students moving into the Iowa City School District. This policy influenced our home choice and location. We purchased a home in the Longfellow Elementary neighborhood, and our youngest son currently attends City High.

My husband and I strongly agree with the policy of assigned enrollment for new students to the district. The two high schools need to be balanced in student population. We believe that the Iowa City School Board must immediately reinstate the policy that all new high school students attend City High and, thus, begin a phased alteration of the enrollment boundaries for Iowa City's high schools.

I urge all members of our community to support the petition currently being circulated by the group known as Citizens for Outstanding Public Education. Please view and sign this petition at the group's Web site, www.copeiowa.org.

Janet Riley

Iowa City
