

When a High School Student Moves to a New Town

By **Kathy Cox**

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Do you know anyone who may be moving soon to Lake Havasu and who also has a teen-age student? Or do you know anyone local with a teenager who's planning on moving from Havasu in the next few months? Chances are you do.

Ask your friends or relatives to do everything in their power to keep their high school student enrolled in his present school—whether here in Havasu or in another town—until the end of the semester. Perhaps there are relatives or friends in town who could take care of the student until the semester is over. Although your friends may be reluctant to ask for help, please ask them to try.

Why is this advice important? The curricula at American schools differ from town to town. Students who move to another school during the semester will find that it's almost impossible to match up his present classes with those offered at the new school. For example, a student taking French in Havasu may find that his new school doesn't offer French. He or she will lose that ½ credit when he enrolls because he is unable to

transfer into a French class, and, for obvious reasons, he can't begin German mid-year.

A similar situation occurs at the beginning of each semester when parents are getting ready to move here or away and they are waiting for the sale on their house to close. They think it will close any day, so they keep their student out of school. Days turn into weeks and weeks turn into months and finally they move. But when their child tries to register at his new high school, he finds that he is behind four weeks or 2 months. He has no classes from his former school that will transfer in. In order to get credit for his work for that semester, he has to go back to the beginning of the semester and make up each day's work a day at a time – AND keep up with his currently assigned work as well. Trying to catch up and trying to keep up are more than most students can handle. They end up with F's in their classes, and they're a semester behind on their road to graduation.

For high school students, earning the right number of credits for graduation is critical. Please help us pass this information along.



Kathy Cox