

Board Policy

DRAFT

Students

BP 5118

OPEN ENROLLMENT ACT TRANSFERS

The Governing Board desires to offer enrollment options in order to provide children with opportunities for academic achievement and that meet their diverse needs. Such options shall also be provided to children who reside within another district's boundaries in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

Whenever a student is attending a district school on the Open Enrollment List as identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, he/she may transfer to another school within or outside of the district, as long as the school to which he/she is transferring has a higher Academic Performance Index. (Education Code 48354, 48356)

A parent/guardian whose child is attending a district school on the Open Enrollment List and who wishes to have his/her child attend another school within the district shall apply for enrollment using BP/AR 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment.

The district shall not provide transportation for Open enrollment Act Intradistrict transfer students.

The Board shall annually determine the enrollment capacity of each district school (Education Code 35160.5(b)(2)(B)).

The district shall employ a random, unbiased process for considering enrollment applications where the number of applications is in excess of the spaces remaining to reach school capacity. Capacity will be determined by using information from the district's Annual Facility Plan. This process shall prohibit an evaluation of whether any student should be enrolled based on his or her academic or athletic performance. (Education Code 35160.5 (b)(2)(B))

The following principles are exceptions to the random, unbiased selection process:

1. No student who currently resides in the attendance area of a school shall be displaced by students transferring from outside the attendance area. (Education Code 35160.5 (b)(2)(C))
2. The district retains the authority to maintain appropriate racial and ethnic balance among district schools. (Education Code 35160.5 (b)(2)(A))
3. The district may employ entrance criteria for specialized schools or programs if the criteria are uniformly applied to all applicants. (Education Code 35160.5 (b)(2)(B))

4. The district retains the right to assign a student to a school or program if the student requires a legally mandated program or accommodation that is available at the school such as a special education or bilingual program.
5. The district retains the right to assign a student to a school for disciplinary reasons or for the protection of the health and safety of that student or other students. (Education Code 35160.5 (b)(3)(A))
6. A student with an approved Open Enrollment Transfer shall remain enrolled in a school unless the student is displaced by a student who resides in the school attendance area.
7. Students who are found to be living outside of a school's boundaries will be subject to the following procedures:
 - a. Once a school administrator is aware that a student enrolled in their school resides outside of their school's boundaries, that administrator, or designee, will refer the matter to the Student Services Office by submitting the Student Change of Address Notice form, along with the student's attendance, and behavior records, current grades, and credits.
 - b. the Student Services Office will follow-up to verify residence and inform parents/guardians of the district's Intradistrict Transfer Request process, as well as provide parents/guardians with the necessary forms. If the Intradistrict Transfer Request is denied, the Student Services Office will inform parents/guardians of their appeal rights and procedures. The student will remain in the district school where he/she is enrolled until the Intradistrict Transfer Request appeal process has been completed.
 - c. The Student Services Office will notify the school administrator, where the student is enrolled, of the status of the Intradistrict Transfer Request when the process has been completed. The Student Services Office will notify parents/guardians, the school of enrollment, and the school of residence regarding the approval or denial of the Intradistrict Transfer Request.

Standards for Rejection of Transfer Applications

Pursuant to Education Code 48356, the Board has adopted the following standards for acceptance and rejection of transfer applications submitted by a parent/guardian of a student attending a school in another district on the Open Enrollment List.

The Superintendent or designee shall apply these standards in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation and shall ensure that the standards are applied uniformly and consistently.

As applicable, the Superintendent or designee may deny a transfer application under any of the following circumstances:

1. Upon a determination that approval of the transfer application would negatively impact the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building, including:

- a. The class or grade level exceeding the district's limits pursuant to the state Class Size Reduction Program or the Morgan/Hart Class Size Reduction Program for Grades 9-12
- b. The site, classroom, or program exceeding the maximum student-teacher ratio specified in the district's collective bargaining agreement
- c. The site or classroom exceeding the physical capacity of the facility pursuant to the district's facilities master plan or other facility planning document
- d. The class or grade level exceeding capacity pursuant items #a-#c above in subsequent years as the student advances to other grade levels at the school

2. Upon a determination that approval of the transfer application would have an adverse financial impact on the district, including:

- a. The hiring of additional certificated or classified staff
- b. The operation of additional classrooms or instructional facilities
- c. Expenses incurred by the district that would not be covered by the apportionment of funds received from the state resulting in a reduction of the resources available to resident students

Appeal Process for Denials of Transfer Applications

All Open Enrollment Act Transfer appeals will be forwarded to and considered by the Director, Student Services.

In cases where the request is denied, parent/guardian may appeal the district's denial of a transfer application to Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services and Special Education.

If the Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services and Special Education upholds the denial, the parents/guardians shall be informed of their legal right to appeal this decision to the Superintendent or designee.

In the event the Superintendent also denies a transfer request, the parents/guardians shall be notified in writing of the reasons for the denial and informed of their legal right to appeal the decision to the County Board of Education, whose decision is final.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200 Prohibition of discrimination

35160.5 District policies, rules, and regulations

46600-46611 Interdistrict attendance agreements

48200 Compulsory attendance

48204 Residency requirements for school attendance

48300-48316 Student attendance alternatives, school district of choice program

48350-48361 Open Enrollment Act

48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

48915.1 Expelled individuals: enrollment in another district

52317 Regional Occupational Center/Program, enrollment of students, interdistrict attendance

FAMILY CODE

6500-6552 Caregivers

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6316 Transfers from program improvement schools

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4700-4703 Open Enrollment Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

200.36 Dissemination of information

200.37 Notice of program improvement status, option to transfer

200.39 Program improvement, transfer option

200.42 Corrective action, transfer option

200.43 Restructuring, transfer option

200.44 Public school choice, program improvement schools

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 132 (2004)

84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 198 (2001)

COURT DECISIONS

Crawford v. Huntington Beach Union High School District, (2002) 98 Cal.App.4th 1275

Management Resources:

Administrative Regulation

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Definitions

District of enrollment means the district, other than the district in which the student's parent/guardian resides, in which the parent/guardian intends to enroll his/her child. (Education Code 48352)

District of residence means the district in which the parent/guardian of a student resides and in which the student would otherwise be required to enroll pursuant to Education Code 48200. (Education Code 48352)

Open enrollment school means a "low-achieving" school identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) pursuant to Education Code 48352 and 5 CCR 4701. (Education Code 48352; 5 CCR 4701)

Transfer Applications into a District School

Enrollment priority shall be available to students who reside within this district. No student who resides within a school's attendance area or who is currently enrolled in a school shall be displaced by a student who is transferring pursuant Education Code 48350-48361 or 5 CCR 4700-4703. (Education Code 48354, 48356)

Applications shall be submitted within the deadlines established by Board policy.

However, the application deadline shall not apply to an application requesting a transfer if the parent/guardian with whom the student resides is enlisted in the military and was relocated by the military within 90 days prior to submitting the application. (Education Code 48354)

The parent/guardian's application may request enrollment of his/her child in a specific school or program. Requests for admission to a magnet school or program designed to serve gifted and talented students shall be subject to the usual admission requirements established by the district for district students. Except for such specialized admission requirements, the Superintendent or designee shall not consider the student's previous academic achievement, athletic performance, physical condition, English language proficiency, family income, or any of the prohibited bases for discrimination listed in Education Code 200. (Education Code 48354, 48356)

Students applying for open enrollment transfers shall be assigned priority for approval as follows: (Education Code 48356):

1. First priority for the siblings of students who already attend the desired school
2. Second priority for students transferring from a program improvement school ranked in decile 1 on the Academic Performance Index (API)

If the number of students who request a particular school exceeds the number of spaces available at that school, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct a lottery, in the group priority order identified in items #1 and #2 above, to select students at random until all of the available spaces are filled. (Education Code 48356)

Within 60 days of receiving the application, the Superintendent or designee shall provide written notification to the parent/guardian and the student's district of residence as to whether the application has been accepted or rejected. If the application has been rejected, the notice shall state the reasons for the rejection. If the application has been approved, the notification shall specify the particular school site and the school's address to which the student has been admitted. (Education Code 48357; 5 CCR 4702)

Terms of Approval

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the school to which the student is transferring has a higher API than the school in which the student was previously enrolled. (Education Code 48356)

The parent/guardian shall enroll his/her child on or before the first day of instruction or within 14 calendar days of receipt of the district's notice of approval of the application, whichever is later. If the parent/guardian fails to enroll his/her child within this timeframe, the district may decline to enroll the student. (5 CCR 4703)

Upon enrollment, the district shall grant the student any credits towards graduation that he/she received from his/her district of residence. The student shall be eligible for graduation from district schools upon completion of state and district graduation requirements. (Education Code 48358)

A student admitted to a district school through this process shall be deemed to have fulfilled district residency requirements pursuant to Education Code 48204 and shall not be required to reapply for enrollment in that school, regardless of whether his/her school of residence remains on the Open Enrollment List. (Education Code 48356; 5 CCR 4702)

Once admitted, a transfer student who wishes to matriculate into a district middle or high school or transfer to another district school shall reapply for admission to the new school pursuant to the requirements of Board policy and administrative regulation.

Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their children to school.

Transfers out of District Schools on the Open Enrollment List

Upon identification by the California Department of Education (CDE) that a district school is on the Open Enrollment List, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of each student enrolled in the school of the option to transfer. This notice shall be provided by the first day of instruction. However, if the CDE has not notified the district whether a school is on the list by the first day of instruction, the notification shall be provided no later than 14 calendar days after the Open Enrollment List is posted on the CDE's web site. (Education Code 48354; 5 CCR 4702)

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In cases where the request is denied, parent/guardian may appeal the district's denial of a transfer application to Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services and Special Education.

If the Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services and Special Education upholds the denial, the parents/guardians shall be informed of their legal right to appeal this decision to the Superintendent or designee.

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