

OPEN ENROLLMENT

The District has an open-enrollment program as set forth in A.R.S. 15-816 et seq. The open enrollment program described in this policy shall be placed on the District website and made available to the public on request.

No tuition shall be charged for open enrollment, except as authorized by applicable provisions of A.R.S. 15-0764, 15-797, 15-823, 15-824 and 15-825.

Definitions

Resident transfer pupil means a resident pupil who is enrolled in or seeking enrollment in a school that is within the school district - but outside the attendance area - of the pupil's residence.

Nonresident pupil means a pupil who resides in this state and who is seeking enrollment in a school district other than the school district in which the pupil resides.

Enrollment Options

District resident pupils may enroll in another school district or in another school within this District. Resident transfer pupils and nonresident pupils may enroll in schools within this District, subject to the procedures that follow.

Information and Application

The Superintendent shall prepare a written information packet concerning the District's application process, standards for acceptance or rejection, and policies, regulations, and procedures for open enrollment. The packet will be made available to everyone who requests it.

The information packet shall include the enrollment application form and shall advise applicants that they must submit enrollment applications on or before the second Friday in February of each year to be considered for enrollment during the following school year.

Transportation is not provided by the District to students enrolled at a school through the open enrollment policy, except the District will provide transportation limited to no more than twenty miles each way to and from the school of attendance or to and from a pickup point on a regular transportation route or for the total miles traveled each day to an adjacent district for nonresident pupils with disabilities whose individualized education program (IEP) specifies that transportation is necessary for fulfillment of the program and when a student resides within the boundaries of the school of attendance.

Open enrollment is granted on an annual basis. Students must submit an application each year to be considered for open enrollment. A separate application must be submitted for each student for whom an open enrollment is being requested.

While every effort will be made to maintain the enrollment status of students previously placed at a school through the open enrollment process, sudden enrollment growth or other unpredictable circumstances affecting capacity in a particular school may prevent approval of requested continued enrollment.

Capacity

The Superintendent shall annually estimate how much excess capacity may exist to accept transfer pupils. The estimate of excess capacity shall be made for each school and grade level and shall take into consideration:

- District resident pupils in assigned school attendance areas, including those issued certificates of educational convenience and those required to be admitted by statute.
- The enrollment of eligible children of persons who are employed by the District.
- Resident transfer pupils who were enrolled in the school the previous year.
- Nonresident pupils who were enrolled in the school the previous year.
- Children of military personnel.

The Governing Board shall make the final determination of excess capacity and may require resident transfer pupils and/or nonresident pupils to be subject to the enrollment priorities and procedures found below. The excess-capacity estimates shall be made available to the public by the last week of March each year.

Enrollment Priorities

If the Governing Board has determined that there is excess capacity to enroll additional pupils, such pupils shall be selected on the basis of designated priority categories from the pool of pupils:

- Who have properly completed and submitted applications; and
- Who meet admission standards.

Enrollment priorities and procedures for selection shall be in the order and in accordance with the following:

- Enrollment preference shall be given to resident transfer pupils who were enrolled in the school the previous year and any sibling who would be enrolled concurrently with such pupils. If capacity is not sufficient to enroll all of these pupils, they shall be selected through a random selection process adopted by regulation of the Superintendent.
- Enrollment preference shall be given to nonresident pupils who were enrolled in the school the previous year and any sibling who would be enrolled concurrently with such pupils. If capacity is not sufficient to enroll all of these pupils, they shall be selected through a random selection process adopted by regulation of the Superintendent.
- Enrollment preference shall be given to resident transfer pupils who were not enrolled in the school the previous year. If capacity is not sufficient to enroll all of these pupils, they shall be selected through a random selection process adopted by regulation of the Superintendent.
- Enrollment preference shall be given to nonresident pupils who were not enrolled in the school the previous year. If capacity is not sufficient to enroll all of these pupils, they shall be selected through a random selection process adopted by regulation of the Superintendent.

If capacity is not sufficient to enroll all applicants within each priority category, the order in which the applicants were received will be utilized to place students.

Admission Standards

A pupil who has been expelled by any school district in this state or who is not in compliance with a condition of disciplinary action imposed by any other school or school district or with a condition imposed by the juvenile court shall not be admitted. Acceptance for enrollment may be revoked upon finding the existence of any of these conditions.

A school shall not admit a pupil if the admission of the pupil would violate the provisions of a court order of desegregation or agreement by a school or district with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights directed toward remediating alleged or proven racial discrimination.

Notification

The District shall notify the emancipated pupil, parent, or legal guardian in writing by first full week in April whether the applicant has been accepted, placed on a waiting list pending the availability of capacity, or rejected. If a student is notified of acceptance under the open enrollment policy, that

student must complete an enrollment packet or transfer request form for that school ten days after receiving notification. If the enrollment/transfer request packet is not completed by the tenth day after receiving notification the open enrollment will automatically be withdrawn by the school.

If the applicant is placed on a waiting list, the notification shall inform the emancipated pupil, parent, or legal guardian of the date when it will be determined whether there is capacity for additional enrollment in a school. If the pupil's application is rejected, the reason for the rejection shall be stated in the notification.

As provided by A.R.S. 15-816.07, the District and its employees are immune from civil liability for decisions relative to the acceptance or rejection of the enrollment of a nonresident student when the decisions are based on good faith application of this policy and the applicable statutory requirements and standards.

Exception

Should there be excess capacity remaining for which no applications were submitted by the date established, the Superintendent shall authorize additional enrollment of nonresident pupils:

- Up to the determined capacity.
- On the basis of the order of the completed applications submitted after the notification date established in this policy.
- Without regard to enrollment preference.
- As long as admission standards are met.

Adopted: November 17, 2010

LEGAL REF.: A.R.S. 15-764
 15-797
 15-816 *et seq.*
 15-823
 15-824
 15-825
 15-922

CROSS REF.: EEAA – Walkers and Riders
 IIB - Class Size
 JF - Student Admissions
 JFAA - Admission of Resident Students
 JFAB - Admission of Nonresident Students
 JFABD - Admission of Homeless Students

JG - Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels