



Open Enrollment Policies 2022

Does the state permit intradistrict open enrollment? Is intradistrict open enrollment mandatory or voluntary?

March 2022

Intradistrict open enrollment policies allow students to transfer to another school in their resident district. This datapoint captures district open enrollment requirements, reasons for denying student transfer, and exceptions to open enrollment policies. States with a “No” or “Not permitted” entry explicitly prohibit intradistrict open enrollment, while those with a “Not specified in state policy” entry do not address intradistrict open enrollment in statute or regulation.

STATE	Does the state permit intradistrict open enrollment?	Citation for intradistrict open enrollment	Is intradistrict open enrollment mandatory or voluntary?	Citation for intradistrict mandatory or voluntary
Alabama	Not specified in state policy. However, intradistrict open enrollment is permitted for students in a failing school in lieu of participation in the state's tax credit scholarship program.	Ala. Code § 16-6D-8	Not specified in state policy.	
Alaska	Not specified in state policy. However, intradistrict open enrollment is permitted for students in a school designated as persistently dangerous.	Alaska Admin. Code tit. 4, § 06.210	Not specified in state policy	
Arizona	Yes.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-816.01	Mandatory. School districts must develop, and make publicly accessible in English and Spanish, policies that include admission criteria, application procedures, and transportation provisions. Schools must update its capacity to accept students on its website every 12 weeks.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-816.01

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Arkansas	Yes.	<p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-227</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq.</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-233</p>	<p>Mandatory. Each district must have a policy specifying the method by which a student or parent/guardian may submit a school choice application. The school must accept the transfer request unless they can demonstrate that granting the request would exceed their capacity or violate a court desegregation order.</p> <p>If a student is enrolled in a public school with an "F" rating, the school district must notify the student and their parent/guardian of their right to transfer to another public school without an "F" rating in the district or a different school district. The application for transfer is provided by the division of elementary and secondary education and must serve as a notice of transfer. The student has the right to enroll in a school without an "F" rating that is nearest to the legal residence of the student. The school must accept the transfer request unless they can demonstrate that granting the request would exceed their capacity or violate a court desegregation order.</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-227</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq.</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-233</p>
California	Yes.	<p>Cal. Educ. Code § 48350 et seq.</p> <p>https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pr/openenrollment.asp</p> <p>Cal. Educ. Code § 46600</p>	<p>Mandatory. Students in schools identified by the state superintendent as low-achieving are eligible to transfer to a higher-performing school in the district. A district may adopt standards for acceptance and rejection of applications, which may include program, class, grade level, building capacity, or adverse financial impact. The California Department of Education no longer administers this program.</p> <p>Students who have been identified as a victim of an act of bullying must be granted their transfer request unless the requested school lacks capacity.</p>	<p>Cal. Educ. Code § 48350 et seq.</p> <p>https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pr/openenrollment.asp</p> <p>Cal. Educ. Code § 46600</p>

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Colorado	Yes.	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-36-101	Mandatory. Every district must adopt policies and procedures for intradistrict open enrollment.	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-36-101
Connecticut	Yes.	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-221e	Voluntary. School districts may develop intradistrict assignment programs.	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-221e
Delaware	Yes.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 401 et seq.	Mandatory. The parent of a student within the district may submit an application to the district to attend a school other than the one assigned based on their residence. The application for transfer is provided by the department of education and may be submitted to the district or the department. Prior to submitting an application, the student must be registered with their home school. Each district must develop a policy for application review and enrollment determinations. School districts may deny student enrollment for "lack of capacity," defined as projected school enrollment at 85% of capacity.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 401 et seq.
District of Columbia	Yes.	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-B, § 2106	Mandatory. Students seeking to attend a citywide program or school outside of their attendance zone must complete an application for the common lottery program to determine their placement. The number of lottery seats available shall be determined annually school-by-school through a standardized process set forth by the chancellor.	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-B, § 2106
Florida	Yes.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.31	Mandatory. Schools and districts must develop policies to accept intradistrict transfers subject to capacity. Each school district must determine the capacity of its schools and post the information on its website.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.31

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Georgia	Yes.	<p>Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-2130</p> <p>Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-2131</p>	<p>Mandatory. School districts must develop policies, including application deadlines, to allow students to transfer within the district. Students are permitted to transfer if space is available at the receiving school. Districts must notify parents annually about this option. Parents must submit a written request to transfer.</p> <p>The state board of education offers an unsafe school choice option for students attending "persistently dangerous" schools.</p>	<p>Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-2131</p> <p>Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-5-4-.09</p> <p>Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-8-.16</p>
Hawaii	Yes.	<p>Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 302A-1143</p> <p>Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 302A-1145</p>	<p>Voluntary. Open enrollment is allowed when mandated by the state education agency or federal law. Other transfer requests are granted at the discretion of the state education agency. Students in a Hawaiian language medium education program and a career and technical education program are permitted to attend a school outside of their service area. Transferring students must provide a certificate of release from the sending school.</p>	<p>Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 302A-1143</p> <p>Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 302A-1145</p>
Idaho	Yes.	<p>Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1401 et seq.</p>	<p>Mandatory. Students must apply annually on an application provided by the state education agency. Districts may not limit or prohibit a student from applying to attend another school. Suspended or expelled students are not eligible for open enrollment transfers.</p>	<p>Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1401 et seq.</p>

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Illinois	Yes.	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-21.3a	Mandatory. School districts must develop a policy governing student transfers within the district. Students or parents must request the transfer. Student transfers may be rejected if the transfer would exceed the school's capacity, the school has academic entrance criteria the student does not meet, or the transfer would interfere with current law, consent decrees or court orders. Each school district must have a policy governing the transfer to students from a persistently dangerous school.	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-21.3a
Indiana	Yes.	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-25-7-1 et seq.	Mandatory. Indianapolis Public Schools must establish a parental choice program for students within the district. The district board must establish criteria for placement priorities and the process for school assignment. The policy must give students priority at their neighborhood schools, subject to building capacity limits.	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-25-7-1 et seq.
Iowa	Not specified in state policy.	Iowa Admin. Code r. 281-17.6(282) Iowa Code Ann. § 279.11	Not specified in state policy.	
Kansas	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Kentucky	Not specified in state policy. However, parents must be allowed to send students to the public school nearest their home within their school district attendance area.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 159.070	Not specified in state policy.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 159.070

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Louisiana	Yes.	La. Stat. Ann. § 17:10.7	<p>Both.</p> <p>Mandatory. If a student is enrolled in, or set to attend, a school with a school performance letter grade of D or F, their parent or guardian may enroll them in the public school of their choice if it has sufficient capacity and a school performance letter grade of A, B, or C.</p> <p>Voluntary. When a school is transferred to the Recovery School District, a city, parish or other public school board may grant parents/guardians the option of transferring a student from that school to another school operated by the school board.</p>	<p>La. Stat. Ann. § 17:10.7</p> <p>La. Stat. Ann. § 17:4035.1</p>
Maine	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Maryland	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Massachusetts	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	

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Michigan	Yes.	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1280	Both. Mandatory. If a school has been unaccredited for 3 consecutive years, the superintendent of public instruction may choose between a number of measures, including allowing parents/guardians to send their child to any accredited public school with an appropriate grade level in the district. Voluntary. Districts may generally determine whether or not they will accept applications for enrollment by nonresident applicants residing within the same district for the next school year, following specified procedures and requirements. Districts may refuse to enroll a student if they have been suspended from another school within the last 2 years, if they have ever been expelled from another school, or if they have been convicted of a felony.	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1705 Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1280
Minnesota	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Mississippi	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Missouri	Yes.	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 162.1042	Voluntary. The department must develop guidelines for enrollment option plans by local school districts that will send or receive students. Guidelines must include application procedures and agreements for admitting students. Students who have been suspended or expelled for ten consecutive days or more in the same or previous term of enrollment may be denied application in open enrollment.	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 162.1045
Montana	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Nebraska	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	

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Nevada	Not specified in state policy. However, intradistrict open enrollment is permitted for students in a school designated as persistently dangerous.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.017	Not specified in state policy.	
New Hampshire	Yes.	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 194-D:1 N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 194-D:2	Voluntary. Any district legislative body may vote to designate one or more school as an open enrollment school which may accept pupils from other attendance areas within its district and from outside its district.	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 194-D:1 N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 194-D:2
New Jersey	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
New Mexico	Yes.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-4 N.M. Admin. Code 6.19.8.8	Both. Mandatory. If a student has been enrolled in a public school with an F rating for 2 of the last 4 years, they have the right to transfer to any public school in the state with a school rating that is not F. Voluntary. If the maximum allowable class size has not been exceeded in a public school, the school may enroll other students including those residing outside of the school attendance zone and/or district. Receiving districts may deny enrollment to students previously expelled from any school in the state during the previous 12 months, or whose behavior in the previous 12 months is detrimental to the welfare or safety of students or employees.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-4 N.M. Admin. Code 6.19.8.8
New York	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
North Carolina	No.	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-366 N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-367	Not permitted.	
North Dakota	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	

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Ohio	Yes.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.97 Ohio Admin. Code 3301-48-01	Mandatory. School districts must adopt an open enrollment policy allowing students to apply for enrollment in another school in the district. The policy must include application procedures and district capacity limits by grade level, school building, and education program. Receiving districts may deny enrollment to students who have been suspended or expelled by the sending district for 10 consecutive days or more in the current or proceeding term.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.97 Ohio Admin. Code 3301-48-01
Oklahoma	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Oregon	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Pennsylvania	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Rhode Island	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-2-19
South Carolina	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
South Dakota	Yes.	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-40 S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-41	Mandatory. A school district shall grant a request for a transfer within the district unless the transfer would result in an inability to provide a quality educational program	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-40 S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-41

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Tennessee	Yes.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-128	Mandatory. Each school district will conduct an open enrollment period during which a parent or guardian of a student residing within the LEA may apply for enrollment of the parent's or guardian's student in a school that the student is not zoned to attend. During the open enrollment period, a parent or guardian may submit an application for transfer to a school identified by the district as having space available to enroll and serve additional students. At the end of the open enrollment period, a district shall approve an application for transfer if space is available for the student at the requested school. If the number of applications for transfer to a school exceeds the number of spaces available for enrollment, then the district will conduct a lottery to select the students who may transfer.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-128
Texas	Yes.	Tex. Educ. Code § 29.202	Voluntary. A student is eligible to receive a public education grant or to attend another public school in the district in which the student resides if the student is assigned to attend a public school campus assigned an unacceptable performance rating that is made publicly available.	Tex. Educ. Code § 29.202
Utah	Yes.	Utah Code Ann. § 53G-6-401 et seq. Utah Code Ann. § 53G-6-407	Mandatory. Districts must adopt policies to give priority to intradistrict student transfers and provide written notification to the resident school in the event of an intradistrict transfer. A local school board must strive to avoid requiring current students to change schools and, to the extent reasonably feasible, accommodate parents who wish to avoid having their children attend different schools of the same level because of boundary changes which occur after one or more children in the family begin attending one of the affected schools.	Utah Code Ann. § 53G-6-401 et seq. Utah Code Ann. § 53G-6-407

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Vermont	Yes.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 822a	Mandatory. Open enrollment is only permitted for high school students. Students may apply to attend any high school, but may enroll in the school only if the student, the sending school, and the receiving school agree. Local boards of education may set guidelines that include limits based on the financial impact and the capacity of the program, class, and building. Sending schools may limit the number of students transferring out of the school.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 822a
Virginia	Yes.	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-7.1	<p>Voluntary. Local school boards may establish open enrollment policies allowing students to attend another school within the district.</p> <p>Schools may also include provisions for a lottery if transfer requests exceed capacity and may prohibit transfers for students who have had certain disciplinary actions.</p>	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-7.1
Washington	Yes.	<p>Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.225.270</p> <p>Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.225.300</p>	<p>Mandatory. Each school district in the state shall adopt and implement a policy allowing intradistrict enrollment options. Each district shall establish its own policy establishing standards on how the intradistrict enrollment options will be implemented.</p> <p>Each school district board of directors annually shall inform parents of the district's intradistrict and interdistrict enrollment options and parental involvement opportunities. Information on intradistrict enrollment options and interdistrict acceptance policies shall be provided to nonresidents on request.</p>	<p>Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.225.270</p> <p>Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.225.300</p>

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West Virginia	Yes.	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-16	Voluntary. The county board may establish attendance zones within the county to designate the schools that its resident students shall attend. Upon the written request of any parent or guardian, or person legally responsible for any student, or for reasons affecting the best interests of the schools, the superintendent may transfer students from one school to another within the county. Any aggrieved person may appeal the decision of the county superintendent to the county board, and the decision of the county board is final.	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-16
Wisconsin	Yes.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.51	Voluntary. School districts may assign and give preference to residents of the school district who live outside the school's attendance area.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.51
Wyoming	Not specified in state policy.		Not specified in state policy.	
Puerto Rico	Yes.	§ 9814a Eligibility, 3 L.P.R.A. § 9814a	Voluntary. The school choice Vouchers, whether for students of the Public Education System or of private schools, may be requested by the students' parents, guardians, or custodians to the schools that participate in the Program and that, in turn, are chosen through their independent decision-making process.	§ 9814a Eligibility, 3 L.P.R.A. § 9814a
Total answers	Yes: 29 Not specified in state policy: 22 No: 1		Not permitted: 23 Mandatory: 17 Voluntary: 9 Both: 3	