



Open Enrollment Policies 2022

Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?

March 2022

This datapoint captures the student groups prioritized for admission through open enrollment as defined in state policy. State admissions lottery provisions are included when relevant.

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Alabama	Not specified in state policy.	
Alaska	Not specified in state policy.	

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Arizona	<p>Mandatory Intradistrict and Interdistrict: Schools must give enrollment preference to and reserve capacity for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Resident pupils -Pupils returning to the school from the prior year. -Siblings of pupils already enrolled. <p>Schools may give enrollment preference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students in foster care. -Students experiencing homelessness. -Students attending a school that is closing. -Children of school employees. -Resident transfer students and their siblings. -Students who meet additional criteria established by the district. 	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-816.01
Arkansas	<p>Mandatory Intradistrict and Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Siblings. -Students unable to transfer due to transfer limits in the previous school year. 	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq.
California	<p>Voluntary Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Siblings. -Students eligible for free- or reduced-price meals. -Children of military personnel. -Students who are victims of an act of bullying. <p>A district may determine the number of transfers it is willing to accept and hold an enrollment lottery if the number of applications exceeds space. Receiving districts may not reject a transfer if the cost of educating the student exceeds state aid.</p> <p>Mandatory Intradistrict and Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Siblings. -Students transferring from a low-performing school with certain criteria. <p>Districts also give priority to students residing in the district. If the number of applicants exceeds space available, the school must conduct a lottery from the two priority groups until available spaces are filled.</p>	<p>Cal. Educ. Code § 46600</p> <p>Cal. Educ. Code § 48300 et seq.</p> <p>Cal. Educ. Code § 48356</p>

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Colorado	<p>Mandatory Intradistrict and Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students in low-performing schools -Students performing below proficient in one or more subjects <p>Schools and school districts are directed to consider the development of a policy that would prioritize these students.</p>	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-36-101
Connecticut	<p>Mandatory Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Siblings -Students in low-performing schools <p>Students are admitted using a lottery system designed to preserve racial, ethnic and economic diversity.</p>	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-266aa
Delaware	<p>Mandatory Intradistrict and Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Returning students. -Students living in a school's designated feeder zone. -Siblings of currently enrolled students, with preference for siblings who live in the district. <p>After giving priority to the first three student groups, districts may give priority to student groups in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students who have designated the school or program as a first, second, or third choice. -Students who live within the district. -Children of school employees. <p>After the district has admitted all qualifying students based on these criteria the district must use a lottery and a ranked waiting list.</p>	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 405
District of Columbia	<p>Mandatory Intradistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Siblings -Students that qualify for proximity preference at the requested school. -Students designated as "At-Risk". 	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-B, § 2106

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Florida	Mandatory Intradistrict and Interdistrict: -Military-connected students. -Students relocated due to a foster care placement. -Students relocated due to a court-ordered custody change. -Resident students. Districts must establish a lottery procedure for student placement.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.31
Georgia	Not specified in state policy. However, districts must admit non-resident children of district employees.	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-293
Hawaii	Not specified in state policy.	
Idaho	Not specified in state policy.	Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1402 Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1404
Illinois	Not specified in state policy.	

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Indiana	<p>Voluntary Interdistrict: -Children of school personnel. -Members of the same household of a student attending the school.</p> <p>Districts that do not accept interdistrict transfers must accept students when all of the following criteria are met: -The student attended a private school in the district's attendance area for at least the two preceding school years. -The student is transferring because the student's resident district does not offer grades 9-12. -The majority of students in the same grade at the nonpublic school of the transferring student are residents of the school district. -The district has capacity to accept students.</p> <p>If the number of transfer requests exceeds capacity, the district must conduct a random selection process at a public meeting.</p>	<p>Ind. Code Ann. § 20-26-11-6.5</p> <p>Ind. Code Ann. § 20-26-11-6.7</p> <p>Ind. Code Ann. § 20-26-11-32</p>
Iowa	<p>Mandatory Interdistrict: -Students whose enrollment would facilitate a court-ordered desegregation plan. -Students who relocated from the receiving district.</p>	<p>Iowa Code Ann. § 282.18</p> <p>Iowa Admin. Code r. 281-17.6(282)</p> <p>Iowa Admin. Code r. 281-17.8(282)</p>
Kansas	Not specified in state policy.	
Kentucky	Not specified in state policy.	
Louisiana	Not specified in state policy.	
Maine	Not specified in state policy.	
Maryland	Not specified in state policy.	

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Massachusetts	Not specified in state policy. However, if the number of nonresident students applying for acceptance to another district exceeds the number of available seats, the school committee must hold a lottery.	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 76, § 12B
Michigan	<p>Interdistrict and Intradistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students previously enrolled in the school. -Students from the same household as an enrolled student. <p>If more students apply for enrollment than there are slots, a lottery will be used to populate a waiting list.</p>	<p>Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1705</p> <p>Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1705c</p>
Minnesota	<p>Voluntary Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrolling siblings of currently enrolled students. - Students whose applications are related to an approved integration and achievement plan. - Children of the school staff. - Students residing in specific parts of a municipality as described. <p>If a district receives more applications than available seats, a lottery must be held to determine which students will receive seats.</p>	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 124D.03
Mississippi	Not specified in state policy.	
Missouri	<p>Resident students enrolled in a district must be given preference over nonresident students seeking open enrollment.</p> <p>In the Metropolitan Schools Achieving Value in Transfer Corporation system in St. Louis, preference must be given to students attending a receiving district as part of a voluntary transfer program established in light of a federal desegregation order.</p>	<p>Mo. Ann. Stat. § 162.1045</p> <p>Mo. Ann. Stat. § 162.1060</p>
Montana	Children with disabilities may not be disapproved for attendance, in cases that otherwise might adversely affect the accreditation of the receiving school due to insufficient room and overcrowding.	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-321

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Nebraska	<p>Voluntary: --Siblings of open enrollment students.</p> <p>If a student has enrolled in a resident school district for the immediately preceding two school years, relocates to a different school district, but wants to continue attending the same school, that student's application for enrollment must be automatically accepted and certain associated deadlines must be waived. Similarly, deadlines are waived and applications must be accepted if a student is already enrolled in a nonresidential school district, relocates to a different district, but wants to continue attendance.</p> <p>Mandatory: --Siblings of students utilizing open enrollment. --Students previously enrolled utilizing open enrollment. --Students who reside in the learning community and contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at a school building as specified in statute. --Other students who reside in the learning community. Prioritization of enrollment is weighted in the order given above.</p>	<p>Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-238 Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-240</p>
Nevada	Not specified in state policy.	
New Hampshire	<p>Voluntary: -Students applying to an open enrollment school who are residents of that district.</p> <p>If the number of otherwise eligible applicants exceeds the number of seats, schools must use lottery selection as a basis for admission. Two or more school districts may consolidate otherwise eligible resident students into one applicant pool for the purposes of an admissions lottery for designated open enrollment schools. Applicants may be selected on the basis of aptitude, academic achievement, or need, if such a selection is directly related to the academic goals of the school.</p>	<p>N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 194-D:2 N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 194-D:4</p>

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
New Jersey	<p>Voluntary: -Siblings of students who are enrolled in a designated school.</p> <p>If more applications are received than spaces are available, a lottery must be held to determine acceptance.</p>	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:36B-20
New Mexico	<p>Voluntary: -Students residing in the school district or whose parents are in the military and who are seeking enrollment. -Students who previously attended the school district. -All other applicants.</p> <p>Prioritization of enrollment is weighted in the order given above. Local school boards may establish additional enrollment preferences, such as the children of school employees, those experiencing extreme hardship, and siblings of students already attending the school.</p> <p>If applications exceed space available, the receiving district must create a ranked waiting list based on priority enrollment.</p>	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-4
New York	<p>Not specified in state policy. However, districts seeking to apply for participation in a voluntary urban-suburban transfer program must demonstrate to the commissioner that there will be anticipated decreases in the number and percentage of minority students in the schools of participating urban districts, and anticipated increases of the number and percentage of minority students in the schools of participating suburban districts.</p> <p>Statute defines minority pupil as a pupil of Black or Hispanic origin, or a member of another racial group that has historically been the subject of discrimination; suburban district is defined as, among other components, a district with a disproportionate number or percentage of nonminority students; and urban district is defined as a city school district with a disproportionate number or percentage of minority students.</p>	N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 175.24 N.Y. Educ. Law § 3602
North Carolina	Not permitted.	

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
North Dakota	Not specified in state policy. However, certain requirements are removed for parents who are applying for intradistrict transfer to a contiguous district at any time for the following reasons: the student was a victim of documented violence at their current school; their current school was declared unsafe; or their current school has been identified as requiring program improvement for six consecutive years.	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-31-08
Ohio	<p>Intradistrict and Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Resident Students. -Returning Students. <p>Policies for admitting students may not include priority based on academic, athletic or artistic ability, disability status, or status as an English learner.</p>	
Oklahoma	<p>Voluntary Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parent or legal guardian of the student who is employed as an educator. -Any brother or sister of a student who transfers may attend the school district to which the student transferred as long as the school district has capacity. 	<p>Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 8-101.2</p> <p>Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 8-113</p>
Oregon	<p>Voluntary Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students with siblings currently enrolled in a school of the same school district for which the student seeks admission. - Previously had received consent because of a change in legal residence. 	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 339.127
Pennsylvania	Not specified in state policy.	
Rhode Island	Not specified in state policy.	
South Carolina	Not specified in state policy.	
South Dakota	<p>Mandatory Intradistrict and Interdistrict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sibling of a student accepted into and currently enrolled in the district 	<p>S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-43</p> <p>S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-44</p>

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Tennessee	Voluntary Intradistrict and Interdistrict: -Students who may relocate within the respective school zone. -Students who may have a sibling enrolled at the respective school, -Students who may have a parent who teaches at the respective school.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-128 Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3113
Texas	Voluntary Intradistrict and Interdistrict: -Students at risk of dropping out of school. -Previously enrolled students. -Siblings of enrolled students residing in the same household or other children residing in the same household as enrolled students. Only for students transferring out of low-performing schools under the public education grant program. A school district that has more acceptable applicants for attendance under this subchapter than available positions must fill the available positions by lottery.	Tex. Educ. Code § 29.201et seq. Tex. Educ. Code § 29.203(d)
Utah	Voluntary Intradistrict and Interdistrict: -A student who qualifies for special education services. -Intradistrict transfers.	Utah Code Ann. § 53G-6-403 Utah Admin. Code r. § R277-437-4
Vermont	Mandatory Intradistrict and Interdistrict: -Student whose transfer request was denied in a prior year. If more than the allowable number of students wish to transfer to a school, the board of the receiving high school district must hold a lottery to determine which students may transfer.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 822a
Virginia	Voluntary Intradistrict: -Students who reside in a location subject to a change in attendance area in the past two years. -Siblings of students attending the school. -Children of school personnel.	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-7.1

STATE	Which student groups are prioritized in open enrollment programs?	Citation for which student groups are prioritized
Washington	Mandatory Intradistrict: -Children of full-time teaching staff	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.225.270
West Virginia	Voluntary Intradistrict and Interdistrict: -Siblings of students already enrolled - Secondary students who have completed 10th grade and, due to family relocation, become nonresident students, but express the desire to remain in a specific school to complete their education - Students who are children, grandchildren, or legal wards of employees; - Students whose legal residences, though geographically within another county, are more proximate to a school within the receiving county; - Students who reside in a portion of a county where topography, impassable roads, long bus rides, or other conditions prevent the practicable transportation of the student to a school within the county, and a school within a contiguous county is more easily accessible;	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-16
Wisconsin	Mandatory Interdistrict: -Siblings -Returning Students -Students moving from district elementary or middle schools If there are more applications than space available, students are selected from a waiting list at random after priority students are enrolled.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.51
Wyoming	Not specified in state policy.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-502
Puerto Rico	Mandatory Intradistrict: - Low-income according to federal rules. - Students with severe disabilities. - Children who are adopted, living in shelters or foster homes. - Students who are victims of bullying or sexual harassment. - Gifted students. - Any other, using the student's grade point average in ascending order giving priority to students with poor academic performance.	§ 9814a Eligibility, 3 L.P.R.A. § 9814g