

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. 15-764, 15-797, 15-823, 15-824, and 15-825.

Definition

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. 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 March 15 of each year to be considered for enrollment during the following school year.

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, 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.
- Nonresident pupils who were enrolled in the school the previous year.

The Governing Board shall make the final determination of excess capacity. The excess-capacity estimates shall be made available to the public in December of 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 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 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.

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 remediation of alleged or proven racial discrimination.

Notification

The District shall notify the emancipated pupil, parent, or legal guardian in writing by April 15 whether the applicant has been accepted, placed on a waiting list pending the availability of capacity, or rejected. The District shall also notify the resident school district of an applicant's acceptance or placement on a waiting list. 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.

Transportation of Students Admitted Through Open Enrollment

A resident transfer student is eligible for District transportation on routes within the attendance boundaries of the school to which the student has been accepted for open enrollment transfer. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians of the resident transfer student to have the student at a designated pickup point within the receiving school's transportation area.

Nonresident open enrollment students are eligible for District transportation from a designated pickup point on a bus route serving the attendance area of the school to which the student has been admitted, or as may be otherwise determined by the District.

The District *may* provide transportation for open enrollment nonresident students who meet the economic eligibility requirements established under the national school lunch and child nutrition acts for free or reduced price lunches:

- of not more than twenty (20) miles to and from:
 - the school of attendance, or
 - a pickup point on a regular District transportation route, or
 - for the total miles traveled each day to an adjacent district.

The District *shall* provide transportation for nonresident transfer students with disabilities whose individualized education program (IEP) specifies that transportation is necessary for fulfillment of the program:

- of not more than twenty (20) miles to and from:
 - the school of attendance, or
 - a pickup point on a regular District transportation route, or
 - for the total miles traveled each day to an adjacent district.

Exception

Should there be excess capacity remaining for which no applications were submitted by the date established, the Superintendent, upon approval by the Board, 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.
- Whose applications are submitted after March 15th.

Adopted: date of Manual adoption

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