

Cottonwood Joint School District No. 242

STUDENTS

3010P

Open Enrollment Procedures

Open Enrollment Application forms are available on the District's website. Students who reside in the District and move out of their school attendance zone during the school year must initiate an Open Enrollment request to stay in their school. The application, together with the student's cumulative record, special education file, IEP, or other applicable documents, if any, shall be submitted to the receiving district no later than February 1 for enrollment during the following school year. The District will not admit an student prior to reviewing that student's records from their previous school districts.

The District has the option of accepting a student who does not meet the criteria set forth herein, if the student agrees to special conditions of admission, as set forth by the District.

No tuition shall be charged when a student from another school attendance area or other Idaho school district attends a District school as described in this procedure and the related District policy.

Application for Out-of-District Students

For students who reside outside the Cottonwood School District boundary, the parent/guardian shall complete the Open Enrollment Application form and submit it to the principal of the school they wish to attend (receiving school).

Decision Regarding Application

Once the receiving school principal receives the application from an out-of-District parent/guardian, along with the student's file from their home district, the principal or designee makes a recommendation to approve or not approve the transfer using the criteria set forth in Policy 3010.

The principal sends the form to the Superintendent, who shall:

Form a team of at least three people to consider Open Enrollment Applications. All members of the team must be knowledgeable about:

1. The student;
2. The student's disciplinary record;
3. The student's attendance record;
4. The student's disability, if applicable and
5. The placement options, given the District's capacity limits.

The team shall include the Superintendent, the principal, of the building the student will attend, and the Superintendent's designee. After reviewing the student's file, the team shall have discretion to review and accept or deny the open enrollment applications on a case by case basis, utilizing and applying the factors noted above.

Applications will normally be considered on a "first come first-serve" basis. However, in situations where openings are limited and applications are received in a similar timely fashion, the Superintendent may give priority if a student:

1. Has a brother or sister enrolled at the requested school;
2. Has a parent/guardian who is employed by the District;
3. Has a unique situation or extraordinary circumstance or
4. Seeks full time enrollment rather than part-time enrollment.

Any non-resident student placed by court order under the Idaho Rehabilitation Act or the Child Protection Act and residing in a licensed home, agency, or institution located within the District shall be enrolled and shall not be charged tuition.

Homeless children as defined by the Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 100-77), may attend any school within the district without payment of tuition when it is determined to be in the best interest of the homeless child.

The Superintendent will notify the parent/guardian of their decision no later than March 31.

If the request for open enrollment is denied, the denial will include a written explanation. All parents/guardians whose open enrollment application for a student is denied shall be provided with the notice of the denial and information about their options to appeal the denial.

If the request for open enrollment is approved, the notification will inform the parents of the following:

1. Parents must provide transportation or get student to the nearest District bus stop, if space is available;
2. Parents must notify the District by February 1 of each year regarding their intention to re-enroll their child under the Open Enrollment program
3. That open enrollment may be revoked if the student presents issues of chronic absenteeism, commits serious disciplinary infractions, is expelled, or if the receiving school exceeds maximum capacity with resident students within their first two years of admission.

Grounds for Denial of Application

Factors which may cause an Open Enrollment Application to be denied include:

1. A school, grade, or program(s) has lack of available classroom space and/or staff, such as when the current enrollment is at or above the following capacity limits:

Grade	Class Size
K-1	18
2-3	18
4-6	18
7-12	150 students per teacher per day or CORE classroom of 25 students per class
Special Education classroom, Self-Contained	An average of 6 students per teacher

2. The student has been suspended or expelled in their home district. The student has a documented history of repeated serious disciplinary infractions which could be ground for suspension or exclusion.
3. The student has issues of chronic absenteeism. A student is considered chronically absent if the student is absent 10% or more days during the school year.
4. It is determined that information on the Open Enrollment Application has been misrepresented or was incomplete.

However, if the student has a 504 plan or IEP and the disciplinary or absenteeism issues are a manifestation of the disability, this shall not be grounds for denial of the application.

Revocation of Open Enrollment

As long as an open enrollment student's parent/guardian has, before the preceding February, notified the District of their intention to re-enroll the student the Superintendent shall treat that student as if they reside in that school's attendance area. However, the District reserves the right to remove an open enrollment student if:

1. The student has a documented history of chronic absenteeism;
2. The student has a documented history of repeated serious disciplinary infractions;
3. The student has been expelled.
4. The number of resident students exceeds the capacity limits set in this procedure. A student's open enrollment cannot be revoked on these grounds if a student has attended the receiving school for more than two consecutive school years.

If a student's open enrollment is revoked, the parent/guardian may appeal the revocation to the Board within five school days.

The Board of the receiving school must render a decision to the parent/guardian at their next regular meeting, and the Board must issue their decision in writing. The decision of the Board may be appealed to the State Board of Education.

If a student who is a resident of another district applies to this District and is accepted under the terms of this policy and fails to attend they shall be ineligible to apply again for open enrollment in this District.

Students with Disabilities

In-district and out-of-district students with disabilities are not treated differently from students without disabilities with respect to consideration for placement in the school of their choice, unless the District has made an individual determination that disability-related needs of a particular student with a disability cannot be reasonably met at the school of their choice. Additionally, students applying who have a 504 plan or IEP may not be denied enrollment or have enrollment revoked if the behavior resulting in disciplinary action or chronic absenteeism is a manifestation of the student's disability.

Procedure History

Promulgated on: August 15, 2016

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