



# OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

# What is Open Enrollment?

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Open Enrollment is the process by which parents/guardians residing in an Iowa district may enroll their child(ren) into another Iowa school district under the terms and conditions of Iowa Code.

- Open Enrollment (OE) is between two school districts, not between schools within our district.
- Student must be in good standing with resident district to open enroll into another district.

# Guidelines

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- Parents/guardians must complete an Open Enrollment application and submit to both school districts. Applications are available at each Iowa school district and the Iowa Department of Education.
- Open enrollment is based on the school year, not semester
- Once approved for open enrollment, the student can remain in the district until graduation, or they move into the district.
  - Do not need to re-apply each year

# Guidelines

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- Students in 11th/12th grades may continue in their current district.
  - Do not have to apply for open enrollment
- Students/families are responsible for their own transportation to school.
  - May ride an SEP bus if they get on at an established bus stop within the SEP district and the bus goes to the building the student is assigned to. A fee may apply if student rides our bus.

# Guidelines

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- Districts agree on open enrollment students in October before certified enrollment count day.
- What is continuing education?
  - If a family moves out of the district and wishes for their student to remain at the district they were in prior to the family's move.
  - There can not be a break in the student's education in that district.
- Preschool students are not eligible for continuing education.
  - Out-of-district student must apply for open enrollment to attend kindergarten in the receiving district.

# Definitions

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- Resident District
  - Where the student and family resides. Normally where the student would attend school.
- Receiving district
  - Where the student and family want to attend school.

# Timelines

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- July – Enrollment request forms become available on the Iowa Department of Education website for the school year a year from now.
- March 1 – Application deadline for grades 1-12 for the school year beginning in the fall.
- September 1 – Application deadline for kindergarten students for the fall that they will begin school.

# Process

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- Des Moines Public Schools (DMPW) approves or denies all applications first for their district.
  - Limits the number of students who can open enroll in and out of their district.
- Receiving districts process their applications first.
  - For the past nine years, SEP denied students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) because programs are full with resident students.
  - For the last three years, SEP denied students who request the Home School Assistance Program because the program is full with resident students.
- Resident districts process their requests.

# Good Cause Clause Exceptions

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- There are exceptions to the process, including:
  - Change in district of residence due to a family move. This is called continuing education.
  - Change in marital status, foster care, adoption, or treatment programs
  - Pervasive harassment or severe health need.
  - Failure of negotiations for reorganization or whole grade sharing in the resident district.
  - If private or charter school loses their accreditation or has their accreditation revoked.
  - Participation in a foreign exchange program.

# Impact on SE Polk District

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- 2011-12 there was an increase of 134 students to SE Polk district.
- We have activity all year long with families moving in and out of the district.

# Certified Open Enrollment Count as of October 1, 2011.

Better to have more students enrolling into our district than students open enrolling out of our district.

District	Enrolling In	Enrolling Out
Ankeny	6	4
Baxter	2	0
Bondurant	14	46
Carlisle	5	12
Colfax-Mingo	10	7
Des Moines	289	113
Indianola	1	1
I-35	1	0
Johnston	2	8
Martensdale/St. Mary's	1	0
Melcher Dallas	1	0
Nevada	0	3
Norwalk	1	0
Prairie City/Monroe	12	19
Pella	3	0
Pleasant Hill	5	5
Saydel	8	10
West Des Moines	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>234</b>

# Financial Impact

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- State of Iowa sets the rate per student.
  - 2011-2012 school year - \$5,883 per student.
- SEP invoices resident districts for their students attending our district.
- Tax dollars that SEP community pays for their local school goes into the General Fund and is used to cover the costs of the enrolled students education.

# Is open enrollment a good deal for Southeast Polk and our taxpayers?

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- Yes. We have more open enrolled students coming into SEP than SEP students open enrolling out; otherwise we would be losing money.
- In Iowa, the money for open enrollment follows the student. Districts invoice each other for open enrollment students.
- Currently SEP has available space in our buildings to add additional students with the exception of special education students and home school assistance students.
- Open enrollment students pay fees for registration, transportation, activity passes and parking passes.

# For More Information

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