

Washington County School District
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
OPEN ENROLLMENT (WCSD Policy 2920)

1. Does the Principal have to approve all open enrollment applications?

If there are slots available--and the student does not have any behavioral issues defined in the policy that would preclude enrollment--the Principal must accept the application.

2. What are the behavioral issues that may be grounds for denial of an application?

Applications may not be approved if the student has committed serious infractions of school rules or the law, or is guilty of chronic misbehavior, which if it were to continue, would endanger or disrupt people or property; or which would place unreasonable burdens on school staff. The Principal may consider provisional enrollment of such students with conditions for continued enrollment.

3. Does the student have to re-apply every year?

The approval is for all grades in the school and all schools in the feeder system, unless revoked by the principal according to # 2, above or #13, below. In subsequent years, open enrolled students are included in the school enrollment total which is used to staff the school each spring.

4. During the Early Open Enrollment period are applications approved on a first-come, first-served basis?

No. Applications are collected through the entire Early Open Enrollment period. Determinations are made after the 3rd Friday in February. Applicants are notified before March 31st.

5. Can a student change his/her mind and return to the boundary school?

No. Once the Letter of Acceptance is received the student is committed to that school for the entire school year. He/she may only return to his/her resident school the next school year.

6. Under what conditions can a student's stay under open enrollment end?

- The student graduates
- The student is no longer a Utah resident
- The student is suspended or expelled (see #14)
- It is determined that the school will exceed the open enrollment threshold next year. (Students must be notified by March 15).

7. Does open enrollment automatically grant UHSAA eligibility?

No. This is reiterated on the application and on the Letter of Acceptance. It is possible that the student will be ineligible for UHSAA sponsored athletics and activities.

8. How does the student get to school?

Transportation is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. A student may be allowed to ride a school bus under the following conditions:

- The student has to get to an existing stop. (Stops will not be created for open enrollment students)
- The transportation office gives prior approval (The presence of the student can not displace a regular rider or add to the cost of the route).

9. How do parents and students find out about open enrollment opportunities?

The district will maintain a page on the district web-site that shows available schools and outlines the application procedure. The school should make interested persons aware of the option, but there is no requirement for schools to send home announcements, etc.

10. Where do students get an application?

Applications are obtained at the student's current school and returned to the school that is requested. The requesting school will collect the non-refundable \$5 application fee.

11. When is the early open enrollment period?

December 1 through the 3rd Friday in February. Early Open Enrollment applicants will be notified before March 31st.

12. When is the Late Open Enrollment period?

The 3rd Friday in February through the Friday before school begins.

13. What happens to an open enrollment student that is suspended or expelled?

The Principal has three options: 1) Allow the student to return to school after the suspension or expulsion. 2) Suspend or expel the student and indicate he/she must return to the resident school following the suspension or expulsion, or 3) Allow the student to return to school following the suspension or expulsion but indicate that the student must return to his/her resident school next year.

14. Can a student transfer to a school through some other means?

The procedures for Non-Open Enrollment Boundary Variances ("hardship transfers") remain in policy. This process requires both principals to agree to the transfer. Such variances are done when there is an issue of the health, safety, and welfare of the student.

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