

OPEN ENROLLMENT POLICY

Adopted: May 23, 1988

Revised: January 8, 2018

Reviewed: January 8, 2018

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the application and exclusion procedures used by the school district in making determinations regarding open enrollment.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The School Board believes that parents share the responsibility to provide the most appropriate educational opportunities for their children. The Board believes that parental commitment to the educational program of their children is a very significant and positive influence in the educational success of a child.

The school district desires to participate in the Enrollment Options Program established by Minnesota Statute § 124D.03. It is also the belief and wish of the Board that a spirit of reciprocity and cooperation guide the school district in this endeavor.

III. PROVISIONS OF ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

- A. Eligibility. Applications for enrollment under the Enrollment Options (Open Enrollment) Law will be approved provided that acceptance of the application will not exceed the capacity of a program, excluding special education services; class; grade level; or school building as established by school board resolution and provided that:
1. space is available for the applicant under enrollment cap standards established by school board policy or other directive; and
 2. in considering the capacity of a grade level, the school district may only limit the enrollment of nonresident students to a number not less than the lesser of: (a) one percent of the total enrollment at each grade level in the school district; or (b) the number of school district resident students at that grade level enrolled in a nonresident school district in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 124D.03.
 3. the applicant is not otherwise excluded by action of the school district because of previous conduct in another school district.
- B. Standards that may be used for rejection of application. In addition to the provisions of Paragraph II.A., the school district may refuse to allow a pupil who is expelled under Minnesota Statute § 121A.45 to enroll during the term of the expulsion if the student was expelled for:

1. possessing a dangerous weapon, including a weapon, device, instruments, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, with the exception of a pocket knife with a blade less than two and one-half inches in length, at school or a school function;
 2. possessing or using an illegal drug at school or a school function;
 3. selling or soliciting the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function; or
 4. committing a third-degree assault involving assaulting another and inflicting substantial bodily harm.
- C. Standards that may not be used for rejection of application. The school district may not use the following standards in determining whether to accept or reject an application for open enrollment:
1. previous academic achievement of a student;
 2. athletic or extracurricular ability of a student;
 3. disabling conditions of a student;
 4. a student's proficiency in the English language;
 5. the student's district of residence except where the district of residence is directly included in an enrollment options strategy included in an approved achievement and integration program; or
 6. previous disciplinary proceedings involving the student. This shall not preclude the school district from proceeding with exclusion as set out in Section F. of this policy.
- D. Application. The student and parent or guardian must complete and submit a School District Enrollment Options Program application developed by the Minnesota Department of Education (that enrollment form follows this policy).
- E. Lotteries. If a school district has more applications than available seats at a specific grade level, it must hold an impartial lottery following the January 15 deadline to determine which students will receive seats. Siblings of currently enrolled students, applications related to an approved integration and achievement plan, and children of the school district's staff must receive priority in the lottery. The process for the school district lottery must be established by school board policy and posted on the school district's website.
- F. Exclusion
1. Administrator's initial determination. If a school district administrator knows or has reason to believe that an applicant has engaged in conduct that has subjected or could subject the applicant to expulsion or exclusion under law or school district policy, the administrator will transmit the application to the superintendent with a recommendation of whether exclusion proceedings should be initiated.
 2. Superintendent's review. The superintendent may make further inquiries. If the superintendent determines that the applicant should be admitted, he or she will notify the applicant and the school board chair. If the superintendent determines that the applicant should be excluded, the superintendent will notify the applicant and

determine whether the applicant wishes to continue the application process. Although an application may not be rejected based on previous disciplinary proceedings, the school district reserves the right to initiate exclusion procedures pursuant to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act as warranted on a case-by-case basis.

G. Termination of Enrollment

1. The school district may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student enrolled under an enrollment options program pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 124D.03 or 124D.08 at the end of a school year if the student meets the definition of a habitual truant, the student has been provided appropriate services for truancy under Minn. Ch. 260A, and the student's case has been referred to juvenile court. A "habitual truant" is a child under 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days in a school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days in a school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days in a school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school under Minnesota Statute § 120A.22, Subd. 8.
2. The school district may also terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student over 17 years of age if the student is absent without lawful excuse for one or more periods on 15 school days and has not lawfully withdrawn from school under Minnesota Statute § 120A.22, Subd. 8.
3. A student who has not applied for and been accepted for open enrollment pursuant to this policy and does not otherwise meet the residency requirements for enrollment may be terminated from enrollment and removed from school. Prior to removal from school, the school district will send to the student's parents a written notice of the school district's belief that the student is not a resident of the school district. The notice shall include the facts upon which the belief is based and notice to the parents of their opportunity to provide documentary evidence, in person or in writing, of residency to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee will make the final determination as to the residency status of the student.

- H. Notwithstanding the requirement that an application must be approved by the board of the nonresident district, a student who has been enrolled in a district, who is identified as homeless, and whose parent or legal guardian moves to another district, or who is placed in foster care in another school district, may continue to enroll in the nonresident district without the approval of the board of the nonresident district. The approval of the board of the student's resident district is not required.

IV. GUIDELINES

The following conditions are hereby stipulated for open enrollment for students in early childhood through secondary programs.

1. The ROCORI School District would prefer to accept student/parent applications by July 1 of each year to be effective the following school year.
2. District decisions to accept or reject applications may be based on the following:
 - a. All limitations on enrollment of non-resident pupils must be made in compliance with the Enrollment Options statute(s).
 - b. Applications may be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis determined by staff, program, and space availability.
 - c. Financial considerations.
 - d. School facility limitations.
 - e. Under appropriate statutory provisions, no open enrollment applications will be accepted from a student who has been expelled from attending school in another district.
3. Open enrolled students graduating from ROCORI are subject to the ROCORI policies and procedures for Graduation.
4. Open enrollment status may be terminated at any time for reasons permitted in Minnesota statute.
5. Minnesota State High School League rules determine activity participation.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Open enrollment application processes shall be overseen by the Office of the Superintendent. Applications for open enrollment may be submitted and received at any school office subject to authorization from the Superintendent of Schools. The School Board shall annually review a summary of open enrollment applications received.

