

Answers to frequently-asked questions about attendance exceptions and open enrollment

Enrollment options

Q: What is open enrollment?

A: Open enrollment creates opportunities for those who live outside of district boundaries to attend Mankato Area Public Schools. Kindergarten through 12th grade students may apply to attend a school outside of their district. For example, if a family that lives in another community wants their children to attend Mankato Area Public Schools, they fill out an application to do so.

Open enrollment applications must be submitted by January 15 for fall enrollment. Students who are accepted agree to attend Mankato Area Public Schools for the upcoming school year.

Attendance exceptions

Q: What are attendance exceptions?

A: Attendance exceptions are designed for those who live inside district boundaries and want their children to attend another school building outside of their neighborhood. To be eligible for an attendance exception, families must meet one of three criteria:

- childcare;
- legal matters;
- residential (family moves during the year and they apply to finish the school year at their respective school).

Kindergarten through 12th grade students may apply to attend another Mankato Area Public School building. Attendance exception applications are due by April 1 and need to be done annually.

Exceptions depend upon meeting criteria and space availability. Families authorized for an attendance exception provide their own transportation to the school they've been approved to attend.

Q: Why are there criteria for open enrollment and attendance options?

A: Mankato Area Public Schools' strives to provide a quality, well-rounded education to students at all 16 schools within the district. In fact, more than 95 percent of students go on to college, technical and trade schools, full-time employment or military service. When considering open enrollment and attendance exception options, it's important to balance family and district needs. The district works to avoid overcrowding at schools. Other considerations are expected growth within the schools and how to best meet needs across the district. Criteria encourage consistency and equity with quality education as the goal.

Q: How do I learn more about open enrollment or attendance exceptions?

A: Call the Mankato Area Public Schools' central registration office at 507-387-2125 or email staff at centralregistration@isd77.org for assistance.

Education for life

If you know someone who wants their children to attend Mankato Area Public Schools, they can enroll by calling 507-387-2125. Detailed information about Mankato Area Public Schools is available at isd77.org and by telephoning 507-387-8516.

Check your student's progress in real time

A tool to help students be successful is one where parents are able to check on student information using the Infinite Campus® Parent Portal—an online resource that's available by app too, so it can be used on a smartphone or tablet. At the elementary level, parents view basic demographic information, food service balance and attendance; at the secondary level, parents can also check grades, schedules and grade book assignments 24/7. Students like the online grade book too, because it helps them keep tabs on how they're doing.

To learn more about the Infinite Campus parent portal, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxzkby25> or Central Registration at <https://tinyurl.com/y2xoggzd>. To get started, visit one of your children's schools or Central Registration, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, to pick up a GUID number that will allow you to register online.

For questions or more information contact district media and technology staff at 507-387-7698.

