

Who Can Use the Open Enrollment Program

The School District Enrollment Options Program (Open Enrollment) is open to all students at all grade levels who are counted in the Foundation Aid Formula.

Private school students who wish to attend a public school in another district are also eligible.

How to Apply

Application forms can be obtained from any school or the district office. A separate application form will be required for each student

The admitting district will act on all open enrollment applications prior to April 1st and notify the parent/guardian, and the resident school district, of the action taken within five (5) days of the date the action was taken. Once confirmed, the student must attend the new district for one year.

Students may request to return to their resident district at any time. However, a student who wishes to return to the resident district during the course of the year must have permission from both the nonresident and resident districts.

Students accepted in a nonresident district need not reapply to continue in that district.

Extracurricular and Athletic Eligibility

Students can participate in non-athletic activities in the nonresident district with approval of the North Dakota High School Activities Association. Eligibility for interscholastic activities is determined by the Association.

Students can participate in athletics in the nonresident district. The authority for determining eligibility remains with the North Dakota High School Activities Association. A school proven to be recruiting athletes may suffer penalties and the student may not be eligible to participate.

Special Education

A district cannot discriminate against any student because of a disabling condition. A district is obligated to provide the special education services needed by all resident and nonresident students within its boundaries. If a district accepts a student and then finds out he or she has a disability and needs special education services, that district must provide the services and must notify the resident district in order to arrange a tuition agreement. The nonresident district must provide the services but may bill back tuition and the excess costs to the resident district and the State of North Dakota.

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

The providing district is responsible for the identification, assessment and provision of special education services to all resident and nonresident children and youth identified as disabled and in need of special education services within the district. The student's history of services within another district does not impact this responsibility.

The providing district is responsible for holding a team staffing as soon as the student arrives to review the student's assessment information and the appropriateness of the IEP. Upon this review, the staffing team may decide the previous IEP is appropriate to implement or the team may decide that further assessment is needed and/or a new IEP needs to be written. This review also includes the student's eligibility for special education services.

Financial Arrangements

For non-disabled students, Open Enrollment is funded through the Foundation Aid Formula. Only state foundation aid and the state tuition apportionment payments follow the student to the nonresident district. Only North Dakota residents transferring to another North Dakota public school are eligible for state funding.

For students with disabilities, the nonresident district is responsible for the identification, assessment and provision of services to all special education students enrolled in that district. The nonresident district must provide the services but may bill back tuition and the excess costs to the resident district and the State of North Dakota.

FARGO - THE RESIDENT DISTRICT

The Fargo School District may not prevent students from leaving the district unless requests exceed 20% of total enrollment.

FARGO - THE NONRESIDENT DISTRICT

The Fargo School board will decide whether or not to participate in open enrollment. If the decision is to participate, the criteria used for accepting or rejecting students will be public information. No student will be refused entrance into the Fargo district based on previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, handicapping conditions, English proficiency, or previous disciplinary proceedings. The Fargo School District can reject applications based on lack of space available in specific grades, programs and classes, or schools in the district. Applications will be considered in the chronological order of the date the application was received by the resident district. Once accepted, open enrolled students will receive the same rights as petition students within the district.

The Fargo School District will act on the application prior to April 1 and will inform the applicant of acceptance or rejection of the application within five (5) days of April 1.

If an application is rejected, the reason for the rejection must be specifically stated. An application will not be rejected for any reason not previously determined and made public by the Board.

Transportation

The Fargo School District will not normally transport students outside the district boundaries. Parents/guardians are normally responsible for transporting the student to school or to a point on a regularly established route in the Fargo School District. The district will then transport the student to the school. Parents may choose to contract with a bus company to pick up students in

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their home district and deliver them to school, as long as it is not an extension of a Fargo School District's bus route.

The Fargo School District may consider extending a bus route into an adjoining district if the number of students participating justifies the expense.

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