

Policy 5-105 Open Enrollment

Definitions

"Open enrollment" means a policy that is adopted and implemented by the Governing Board to allow resident transfer students to enroll in any school within the District, to allow resident students to enroll in any school located within other school districts in this state, and to allow nonresident students to enroll in any school within the District pursuant to [A.R.S. § 15-816.01](#).

"Nonresident student" means a student who resides in this state, and who is enrolled in or is seeking enrollment in a school district other than the school district in which the student resides.

"Resident student" means a student whose parents or legal guardian reside within the attendance area of a District school.

"Resident school" means a school that is within the designated attendance area in which a student resides.

"Resident transfer student" means a resident student who is enrolled in or seeking enrollment in a school that is within the school District but outside the attendance area of the student's residence.

Enrollment

The District shall enroll any resident student who applies for enrollment any time. The District shall give enrollment preference to, and reserve capacity for all the following:

1. Resident students.
2. Students returning to the school from the prior year.
3. Siblings of students already enrolled, and
4. Student classified as homeless who choose to remain at the school in which the student was enrolled before classification.

The District gives enrollment preference to children who:

- Are in foster care.
- Meet the definition of unaccompanied youth prescribed in the McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act ([42 U.S.C. § 11434a](#)).
- Attend a school that is closing or
- Are children of a member of the United States Armed Forces who is either on active duty or was killed in the line of duty.

Enrollment Priority Order

The District will give enrollment priority to applicants in the following order, as long as their enrollment can be accomplished in accordance with the District's admission criteria:

- A. Children of District employees.
- B. Students receiving priority status as a group identified by the Board. This includes any boundary changes as well as school closures.
- C. Previously accepted resident transfer students.
- D. Siblings of previously accepted resident transfer students.
- E. Resident transfer students who currently are in the last grade of a feeder school to the school at 5-105

which the application is being made.

- F. Resident transfer students who do not currently attend the school or a feeder school.
- G. Previously accepted nonresident students.
- H. Siblings of nonresident students who currently attend the school.
 - I. Nonresident students who currently are in the last grade of a feeder school to the school at which the application is being made.
- J. Nonresident students who do not currently attend the school or a feeder school.

Schools Without Attendance Boundaries

The District may establish schools that do not have attendance boundaries. Student attendance for such schools shall be based upon open enrollment applications. Transfer is subject to the capacity limit established for the school, program, and/or grade level. Student transportation will be the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian.

Nondiscrimination and Equitable Enrollment

The District will not deny enrollment based on ethnicity, or race, national origin, sex, income level, disability, English language proficiency, athletic ability, or academic performance.

The implementation of this policy must not disproportionately impact any group or class of students.

Adopted: September 24, 2024

Legal Authority:

[A.R.S. § 15-816](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-816.01](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-816.07](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-841](#)

[42 U.S.C. § 11434a](#)

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Gilbert Unified School District
