



Frequently Asked Questions Public School Choice

What is new in 2025?

Families can now apply for transfers within their own district (intradistrict) or to another district (interdistrict). The deadline for applying is now June 1.

What is 'lack of capacity'?

Districts may deny transfers if:

- 95% or more of seats are filled at the requested grade level.
- Adding the student would violate legal class-size limits.

What is an interdistrict vs. intradistrict transfer?

- Interdistrict: Between districts
- Intradistrict: Between schools within the same district

Can I apply to a different school within my resident district?

Yes. Under the updated law and rules, families may request an intradistrict transfer (to another public school within the same school district) subject to capacity.

Can I apply to a different school outside of my resident district?

Yes. Families may request an interdistrict transfer (to a school in another district) subject to capacity.

Are there special provisions for military families?

Yes. Military families may apply year-round and must submit appropriate documentation.

- Identification card of the student's parent, legal guardian that qualifies the student.
- Official orders, assignment notification or notice of mobilization of the student's parents or legal guardian.

Can a district reject my application?

Yes, if the school the student is applying for lacks capacity. Districts may not deny transfers based on race, sex, disability, test scores, English proficiency or extracurricular ability. Expulsions may be considered.

What happens if I'm denied?

You may file an appeal with the State Board of Education within 10 days of receipt of written notification.

What is the deadline for applying?

The deadline for all public school choice transfers is now June 1.

How do I submit my application?

Districts must accept applications by mail or email and cannot require in-person submission.

Will my child lose access to extracurricular activities if they transfer?

No. Transfer students may not be excluded from extracurriculars based solely on their transfer status. However, athletic participation requires a form in accordance with Arkansas Activities Association rules. However, if grades 7-10, participation must be approved by June 1 (Act 475) or student will not be allowed to participate in competition for 365 days.

When will my transfer take effect?

Upon approval, the transfer may take effect immediately or the following school year; however, the district and the family will mutually determine an appropriate start date.

