

What Families Should Know About Open Enrollment

Madison Local Schools | 2026–2027 School Year

Madison Local Schools welcomes families who are interested in joining our district through inter-district open enrollment. The information below is designed to clearly explain how the process works and what families should expect before applying.

Our Commitment

Our priority is to provide a high-quality educational experience for all students while maintaining appropriate class sizes, staffing levels, and program support. Open enrollment allows non-resident students to attend Madison when space is available and when doing so does not impact services for resident students.

Key Dates to Remember

- **Application Window:** May 1 – May 31
- **Approval Notifications:** By June 30
 - *Kindergarten approvals may occur as late as August.*
- **Enrollment Deadline (Grades 1–12):** July 31

Applications that are not completed by the enrollment deadline will be revoked.

Acceptance Is Based on Available Space

Open enrollment is not automatic. Acceptance depends on several factors, including:

- Grade-level class size
- Building capacity
- Staffing levels
- Program availability

To protect the educational experience for all students, Madison Local Schools will not add staff or create new programs solely to accommodate open enrollment requests.

Priority for Enrollment

Applications are reviewed in the following order:

1. Returning open enrollment students (with a new application submitted by May 31)
2. Siblings of returning students
3. New applicants

Resident students are always prioritized when determining available space.

Transportation

Open-enrolled students will be permitted to ride a school bus to and from school if the following criteria are met:

- 1.) A parent/guardian provides transportation to and from an approved, existing bus stop within district boundaries (cluster stop)
- 2.) There is available space on the bus
- 3.) The request does not require any changes to existing bus routes, stops, or schedules

Special Education Services

Madison Local Schools is committed to meeting the needs of all enrolled students while maintaining legally required service levels. Acceptance of students requiring special education services is dependent upon program capacity and compliance with state caseload requirements. The District will not displace resident students to accommodate open enrollment requests.

If resident enrollment changes after acceptance and specialized services reach capacity, enrollment may be denied to remain compliant with state requirements.

Athletics and Activities

Student participation in athletics is governed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Students may not practice or compete until they are fully enrolled.

Student Conduct and Attendance

Applications may be denied or not renewed for students with significant disciplinary history, habitual truancy, or excessive absences as defined by Ohio law. Maintaining a positive learning environment is essential for all students.

Annual Application Requirement

Open enrollment is granted for one school year at a time. Families must submit a new application each year to be considered for continued enrollment.

Change of Residence

If an open enrollment student moves to a different district, parents must notify Madison Local Schools within five (5) days and inform the new district of residence.

Military Families

Enrollment of military-connected students will follow applicable state and federal law. Eligible students may remain enrolled for the remainder of the school year if a parent is discharged or released from active duty.

A Final Note to Families:

Open enrollment provides an opportunity for students to become part of the Madison Local Schools community when space allows. Our goal is to maintain strong academic programs, supportive learning environments, and responsible class sizes for every student we serve.

We encourage families to carefully review these expectations and timelines before applying.

For questions regarding open enrollment, please contact the Superintendent's Office.

Madison Local Schools: Preparing students for success through responsible planning and strong educational opportunities.