

Open Enrollment: An Overview and How Open Enrolled Students are Funded

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Agenda

- **Program Overview**
- **Funding/Payments**
- **Special Education**
- **Program Changes**
- **Important Considerations**



Open Enrollment: An Overview

**The Who, What, When,
Where, and How of Open
Enrollment**



Open Enrollment: An Overview

What is open enrollment?

- Open Enrollment allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a district other than the one in which they reside.



Open Enrollment: An Overview

Who can open enroll?

- Any Wisconsin resident in grades 4K through 12 may apply.
- Open enrollment is available for 4K, prekindergarten, and early childhood only if:
 - the child's resident district offers the same type of program and
 - the child is eligible for the program in their resident district.



Open Enrollment: An Overview

- **When, Where, and How to Apply**
 - **Regular Application Period:**
 - Applying for the following school year
 - February 4 – April 30, 2019
 - Online application process (paper copy available)
 - **Alternative Application Process:**
 - Applying for the current school year
 - Begins July 1
 - Paper only application



Open Enrollment: An Overview

Processing Open Enrollment Applications



Open Enrollment: An Overview

Records Requests

Regular Application Period:

- Resident districts are required to send special education and expulsion records to the nonresident district by the first Friday following the first Monday in May (May 10, 2019).



Open Enrollment: An Overview

Records Requests

Alternative Application:

- Resident districts must send special education and expulsion records to the nonresident district within 10 calendar days after the alternative application is submitted.



Open Enrollment: An Overview

Nonresident District: Approvals and Denials

- Applications can only be denied for reasons specified in statute and board policy.
- Nonresident district must send the parent written notification of the decision.
 - By the first Friday following the first Monday in June (June 7, 2019) for applications submitted during the regular application period.
 - Within 20 calendar days for alternative applications.



Open Enrollment: An Overview

Resident District: Approvals and Denials

- Applications can only be denied for reasons specified in statute and board policy.
- Resident district must send the parent written notification of a denial; they may send written notification of an approval.
 - By the second Friday following the first Monday in June (June 14, 2019) for applications submitted during the regular application period.
 - Within 20 calendar days for alternative applications.



Open Enrollment: An Overview

Appeals

- Parents may appeal either a nonresident or resident district denial to the department within 30 calendar days after the notice of denial is mailed.

(*Exception: A parent may not appeal a nonresident district's denial of an alternative application.)
- The department must affirm the school board's decision unless it finds that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable for applications submitted during the regular application period.



Open Enrollment: An Overview

Appeals

- **If a parent appeals a resident district's denial of an alternative application:**
 - **The department must review the parent's explanation and the resident district's explanation.**
 - **If the department determines that the denial is not in the best interests of the pupil, the department must allow the transfer.**
- **The department's decision is final for alternative application appeals.**



Open Enrollment: Funding

**How Does Open Enrollment
Affect My District's Finances?**



Open Enrollment: Funding

Pupil Count for Open Enrolled Pupils

- **Counting open enrolled pupils – the resident district counts open enrolled pupils (transfers out) for revenue limit and general aid purposes because the resident district pays for the open enrolled pupils.**



Open Enrollment: Funding

PI-1563 – Pupil Count Report

- Nonresident district includes “transfers in” pupils in Step 1 (Head Count) and then must remove them from the head count under Step 2 (Nonresident Reductions).
- Resident district must add its “transfers out” pupils to the head count under Step 4 (Resident Additions) as “transfers out” pupils are not captured in Step 1 (Head Count).



Open Enrollment: Funding

Amount of State Aid Adjustment

The 2018-19 OE transfer amounts are:

- \$7,379 – pupils without disabilities
- \$12,431 – pupils with disabilities

The 2019-20 estimated OE transfer amounts are:

- To Be Determined– pupils without disabilities
- To Be Determined– pupils with disabilities



Open Enrollment: Funding

Open Enrollment Payments

- For each open enrolled pupil, DPI transfers the state-set amount from the resident district to the nonresident district in the final state aid payment.
 - Transfers In – DPI increases district's final state aid payment
 - Transfers Out – DPI decreases district's final state aid payment
 - The OE payment is prorated for students open enrolled for less than a full school year.



Open Enrollment: Funding

Open Enrollment Payments

- Unlike general state aid:
 - Nonresident districts are not required to reduce the property tax levy by the amount of the open enrollment payment.
 - Resident districts are not permitted to increase the property tax levy by the amount of the open enrollment payment.
- The OE payment is more comparable to the revenue limit than to state aid in that it represents funds that are or are not available to spend.



Open Enrollment: Funding

Open Enrollment Payments are outside the revenue limit.

- Net OE gain:
 - Revenue received is outside the limit.
 - Additional spending capacity.
- Net OE loss:
 - District cannot directly levy for that loss of revenue, but...
 - Those “transfers out” pupils were part of the district’s revenue limit membership, upon which the district’s revenue limit (spending authority) is based.



Open Enrollment: Funding

- The OE payments are like marginal cost as it excludes many cost categories, such as:
 - School administration and operations
 - Maintenance
 - Debt services
 - Transportation
- Thus, the OE payment is less than the total average cost per pupil.



Open Enrollment: Funding

Nonresident District

- **Does not receive full amount of revenue per member**
- **Is only required to accept pupils for whom there is space**

Revenue/Member	\$10,000
OE Amount Recd.	\$ 7,379
Difference	\$ 2,621
Available to Spend	\$ 7,379

Resident District

- **Does not lose full amount of revenue per member**
- **Is able to retain a portion to offset fixed costs in the district**

Revenue/Member	\$10,000
OE Amount Paid	\$ 7,379
Retained	\$ 2,621
Available to Spend	\$ 2,621



Open Enrollment: Funding

Alternative Application Payments

- **Payments for alternative application pupils are the same as other open enrolled pupils:**
 - They are equal to the open enrollment transfer amount.
 - Prorated at the daily rate (OE amt/180).
 - Are paid as an aid adjustment in the same way as current open enrollment is paid.



Open Enrollment: Funding

Alternative Applications – Resident Membership Count

- Alternative application pupils may transfer in the middle of the school year.
- Therefore, the pupil may or may not have been counted by the resident district on the 3rd Friday Count.



Open Enrollment: Funding

Alternative Applications – Resident Membership Count

- If the resident district was unable to count the pupil, it may receive a revenue limit exemption in the amount of the aid transfer.
 - Taken in the following school year
 - Non-recurring exemption
- The exemption amount is calculated by DPI's open enrollment staff, provided to the School Finance team, and recorded on the district's revenue limit worksheet (line 10E).



Open Enrollment: Funding

Alternative Applications – Revenue Limit Exemption

- If a pupil was not counted by the resident district on 3rd Friday, it must be indicated by the district in OPAL under the “Alt Apps” and then “Counted in Membership” tab.
- Tab default is “Counted in Membership”.





OPAL

[Logout](#)
[Contact DPI](#)

Mailbox

[Mailbox](#)

Students

[Actively Open Enrolled](#)
[All Students](#)
[3rd Friday in Sept](#)
[Special Education](#)
[and Friday in Jan](#)

[Returning Students](#)

Alt Apps

[All Alternative Apps](#)
[Approve or Deny](#)
[Enrollment](#)
[Counted in](#)

Mailbox	Students	Alt Apps	Apps	Exports	Contacts	EX
All Alternative Apps	Approve or Deny		Enrollment	Counted in Membership	Data Entry	

Alternative Apps - Counted in Membership on 3rd Friday

Year: ▼
 Grade: ▼
 Transfers In
 Transfers Out

Only alternative applications that have been 'enrolled' are shown below. Only the nonresident district can request an application be changed to an enrolled student.

Indicate below whether each student was counted in membership on the 3rd Friday in September.

You still need to click the Save button afterwards!

2 students retrieved

Save

Grade	Name	Counted by Johnson Creek (2730)	Not Counted by Johnson Creek (2730)	Nonresident District	Estimated Revenue Limit Am
07	Ginger, Gabriel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Lake Mills Area (2898)	0.
12	Lime, Leo	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Lake Mills Area (2898)	6,741.
All Pages:		2 students			6,741.

Save

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[Returning Students](#)

[Alt Apps](#)
[All Alternative Apps](#)
[Approve or Deny](#)
[Enrollment](#)
[Accounted in](#)
[Membership](#)
[Data Entry](#)

Mailbox	Students			Alt Apps	Apps	Exports	Contacts
Back to Students	Student Summary	Change Name, etc	Change Enrollment	Withdraw Student	Change Parents/Addr	Aid Calculation	

Aid Calculation, School Year 2017-2018

Student Name: **Leo Lime** Resident School District: Johnson Creek (2730)
 Nonresident School District: Lake Mills Area (2898)
 DOB / Gender: 10/02/1999, Male
 Age on 9/1/2017: 17 years old
 Grade for 2017-2018: 12

Estimated Aid Amount: \$6,741
 Revenue Limit Exemption: \$6,741

Factors

Alternative Application Enrollment Data	3rd Friday in September Status	Withdrawal Data	SPED Status
Enrollment Date: 09/20/2017 Maximum Number of Days: 172 days FTE: 1.0	Not open enrolled In Resident Membership: No	Not withdrawn	SPED on 3rd Friday: No SPED during year: n/a

Current Rates

Estimate or Final: Estimated

Regular Education	1.0 FTE	Special Education	1.0 FTE
Basic Rate:	\$7,055/year	Basic Rate:	\$12,207/year

Open Enrollment and Special Education

Open Enrollment and Pupils with Disabilities



Open Enrollment and Special Education

Special Education Funding under OE Law

- **\$12,431 transfer of general school aids**
 - Processed by DPI in year-end reconciliation.
 - May not use IDEA funds for transfers out.
 - Other state aids withheld if general aids are insufficient.
- Resident district counts pupil for general aids & revenue limit membership.
- No revenue limit exemption for Transfer of Service (TOS).



Open Enrollment and Special Education

Special Education – Identification During the School Year

- If an open enrolled pupil is evaluated and identified with a disability after the school year begins:
 - Resident district charged a prorated amount based on the number of days the student received services.
 - In OPAL, the nonresident district enters the number of days the pupil received services and the number of days the pupil did not receive services (known as Partial SPED).



Open Enrollment: Program Changes

Open Enrollment: Program Changes



Actual Costs for Pupils with Disabilities

- Starting in the 2019-20 school year, the aid payment for open enrolled pupils with disabilities in their second or subsequent year will be either the per pupil payment amount or the actual costs to the nonresident district, up to \$30,000.
- Only if the nonresident district submits a financial statement to the department indicating the actual costs to the school district of providing FAPE to the pupil in the previous school year.



Actual Costs for Pupils with Disabilities

- **The department will send out procedural guidance once it is available.**
- **The guidance will include:**
 - **Q&A about Open Enrollment Actual Costs for Pupils with Disabilities**
 - **Open Enrollment Financial Statement for Special Education Actual Costs**
 - Will be available in OPAL



Open Enrollment: Important Considerations

Open Enrollment: Important Considerations



Open Enrollment: Important Considerations

Space Determinations

- In January, school boards are required to designate regular and special education spaces available for next school year.
- Boards must specify criteria.
 - Criteria must be applied consistently so decisions on space are not arbitrary or unreasonable.
 - Not following criteria is the most common reason DPI overturns OE denials for space.



Open Enrollment: Important Considerations

Space Determinations and Alternative Applications

- **Recent Change to OE Administrative Rules:**
 - After the January board meeting and up until June 30th, a nonresident school board may approve an alternative application submitted for the current school year if the board did not limit the number of spaces available in the pupil's succeeding grade or special education service for applications submitted under the regular application procedure for the following school year.



Open Enrollment: Important Considerations

Space Determinations and Alternative Applications

- **This change aligns with current rule:**
 - From July 1st to the 3rd Friday in September, a nonresident school board may approve an alternative application for the current school year in the pupil's grade or special education service that does not have space limitations established by the school board for the following school year.



Open Enrollment: Important Considerations

Space Determinations and Alternative Applications

- **When a nonresident school district makes their January space determinations, those spaces are only good through the 3rd Friday in September.**
 - When an alternative application is submitted after 3rd Friday but before the next January board meeting, districts can take a look at their numbers at the time of application to determine whether or not they have space or they can continue to use their space determinations from January.



Open Enrollment: Important Considerations

Transportation

- **Nonresident districts must provide transportation specified by IEP.**
- **Transportation is not part of special education space considerations.**
- **Nonresident districts may not deny open enrollment based on transportation needs or costs.**



Open Enrollment: Important Considerations

Tuition Waivers

- Additional year tuition waivers are funded the same as open enrollment:
 - \$7,379 for pupils without disabilities
 - \$12,431 for pupils with disabilities



Open Enrollment: Important Considerations

Open Enrollment and Tuition

- Districts may not:
 - Deny open enrollment for one pupil due to lack of space, while accepting another for same grade and program with a district or parent-paid tuition agreement.
 - Reserve space for OE and tuition separately.
 - Direct parents into/out of OE based on tuition costs.
- Appeals of OE denial will be overturned if a nonresident district denied open enrollment but accepted pupils under tuition agreements (if you have space for tuition, you have space for OE).



Resources

Resources

Open Enrollment Webpage

<https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>

OE Training Modules

<https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/resources/training>

Open Enrollment Bulletins

<https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/resources/bulletins>

Open Enrollment and Special Education

<https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/special-education>



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