



LaMotte School District
841 Bear Canyon Road
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LaMotte Public Schools - Open Enrollment Guidance Document

[LaMotte Strategic Plan](#)

[LaMotte Policy 3141](#)

[LaMotte online enrollment Instructions](#)

Background

The LaMotte Elementary School District is committed to ensuring that all students in our district have an exceptional education. The school district created a Strategic Plan in the winter of 2024 that outlined a number of key pieces. Key foundational pieces of the LRSP include the District's Core Purpose, Core Values, Goal Areas, and the Five-Year Plan which includes measurable District goals:

LaMotte Mission Statement - *Where Education and the Environment Meet*

LaMotte Vision Statement - LaMotte school develops resilient life-long learners who are valued and supported in achieving their academic and personal potential through connection with the community and environment.

LaMotte Quality Education Definition - The definition of quality education for the District is aligned with 10.55.602, "Program delivery standards," which includes the conditions and practices school districts are required to provide ensuring that every student is afforded equal educational opportunities to learn, develop, and demonstrate achievement in content standards and content-specific grade-band learning progressions. Quality education of the district is further aligned to the District's core values and beliefs, and the strategic parameters for the delivery of a quality education.

Core Values and Beliefs

- The culture and values of LaMotte will align with that of our community.
- We value environmental and outdoor learning.
- Students benefit from individualized educational opportunities that foster a growth mindset, integrity, independence, and resilience.
- We value cross-grade level interactions that support academic consistency and a cohesive school community.
- Physical and emotional safety are paramount.
- We recognize the importance of teachers, parents, and residents within the LaMotte school district in creating lifelong learners.
- Students will be prepared for social and academic success upon graduating from LaMotte.

Strategic Parameters

- Decisions are data-driven, research-informed and supportive of student learning and meet the mission and vision statements.
 - The physical environment is core to the LaMotte experience.
 - Applicable to the LaMotte community
 - Addresses an achievement gap
 - Cost-effective
 - Capacity of staff and school
 - Balancing theory and practice (i.e. standards, Experiential, teaching methods, required curriculum vs. education that supports required curriculum – and balances all aspects of the “whole” student).
- Supportive of rigorous curriculum, student learning, and college and career preparedness



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- Support, recruit, retain, train and motivate all staff in alignment with the values of the mission and vision statements.
 - 1 Preserve the qualities of a small rural school
 - 2 Distribution of students across classrooms (ex. number of 2nd/3rd graders in a room)
 - 3 Classroom size consideration
 - 4 Consideration of student applications vs. tenure of returning students

HB203 - Open Enrollment Guidance

This guidance document has been adopted by the LaMotte School Board and is specifically tied to the LaMotte Integrated Strategic Action Plan. It is designed to guide district decision-making regarding HB203 (Open Enrollment) that was passed during the 2023 legislative session. The philosophy and approach expressed below is to ensure that mandatory implementation of the open enrollment legislation within LaMotte School District is in alignment with and supportive of the District's Strategic Plan, particularly the key components articulated on page one of this document.

LaMotte School District Open Enrollment Philosophy and Approach Statements:

- The District is neither supportive of nor opposed to open enrollment as a concept. The legislation was passed during the 2023 session and LaMotte will implement the legislation as required by MT law.
- The District's core purpose applies to all enrolled students regardless of a student's District of residence. All Means All and the District commitments articulated in Policy #3610 - Student Success, extend to all students enrolled in LaMotte School District.
- Enrollment of non-resident students that would cause the district to exceed accreditation standard limits for the elementary as stated at 10.55.712 ARM and 10.55.713 ARM in any school, grade, or classroom would operate as an educationally relevant limit on acceptance in order to avoid an adverse effect on the district meeting its definition of quality education stated in the core values and beliefs & strategic parameters section of the strategic plan while ensuring sufficient space for enrolled resident students. Research by the International Council of Professors of Educational Administrators published at <https://www.icpel.org/> supports that smaller class sizes positively impact student achievement.
- The District operates most efficiently (maximizing resources for all students) when school sites maximize the use of available classrooms.
- The District will manage open enrollment to help bring available classrooms into use with the following parameters. The district will work toward balancing an equal number of students at each grade level:
 - In the K-3 Grades, enrollment of non resident students will not exceed 80% of accreditation standard limits:
 - The preferred class sizes will not exceed 16 students per classroom.
 - The preferred grade level size is 8.
 - In the 4-5 Grades, enrollment of non resident students will not exceed 67% of accreditation standard limits:
 - The preferred class sizes will not exceed 16 students per classroom.
 - The preferred grade level size is 8.
 - In the 6-8 Grades enrollment, of non resident students will not exceed 62% of accreditation standard limits:
 - The preferred class sizes will not exceed 16 students per classroom.
 - The preferred grade level size is 8.
 - Staffing (Recruitment/Retention) may impact the District's ability to open all available classrooms.



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- The District shall ensure appropriate classroom space is set aside and designated for Special Education, District Partnership Activities (THRIVE, SRO, etc.), and expected/projected K-12 resident student growth.
- District policy and procedures for open enrollment shall be constructed in a fashion to:
 - Aid the District in timelines to establish who is leaving and who is coming as early as possible in the winter/spring enrollment process.
 - Prioritize in-district students in timelines and processes, and then consider out-of-district requests for attendance.
 - Prioritize applications of students with siblings who are currently enrolled in the District as nonresident students.
- The LaMotte School District may prioritize the applications of students only if the district receives more applications than it can accommodate. The priority process will only be utilized when the district receives more applications than the school can contain by reaching and exceeding the cap established in the strategic plan. Until the accommodation limit is reached, the district has to consider all applications. If the accommodation limit is reached, the order of priority will be as follows:
 - (1) Applications from previously enrolled students in good standing. This means the student has not violated district truancy and disciplinary policies.
 - (2) Applications from students whose parents are currently employed within the district. Rationale: to promote good morale among staff and retention.
 - (3) Applications from students who have siblings already enrolled within the district. Rationale: to promote stability within families and reduce the burden on parents bringing children to separate districts.
 - (4) Consecutive years in school. For example, if a student leaves and comes back, the consecutive years start over. Then we address total years. Rationale: to promote stability in enrollments within families
 - (5) New applications that do not fall within the above areas. Rationale: to ensure the priorities above are met prior to considering new applications.