

Open Enrollment

Who can apply?

Any Wisconsin resident in 4K to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program.

When can parents apply?

The regular open enrollment application period begins in February and ends at the end of April. The best way to apply is online (a link to the regular open enrollment application season can be found [HERE](#)).

An alternative application procedure allows pupils to apply for open enrollment at any time during a school year if certain criteria are met. For additional information, please visit the alternative application procedures page [HERE](#).

Can applications be denied?

Both the nonresident and resident school districts may deny an application for reasons specified in state law. If an application is denied by either the resident or nonresident school district, the parent may file an appeal with the DPI within 30 days. The DPI is required to affirm the school district's decision unless the DPI determines that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable.

For more information appealing a denial, visit the Wisconsin Department of Instruction appeals page [HERE](#).

How do students get to school?

Parents are responsible to provide transportation to and from school in the nonresident school district, except that transportation required in a child's IEP must be provided by the nonresident school district. A nonresident or resident school district is permitted (but not required) to provide transportation to open enrolled pupils, however the nonresident school district is prohibited from picking up or dropping off a pupil within the boundaries of the pupil's resident school district unless the resident school district agrees. Low-income parents may apply to the DPI for reimbursement of a portion of their transportation costs. For more information concerning transportation, visit the Wisconsin Department of Instruction Transportation page [HERE](#).

More information:

Once a student is accepted into a school district, the student may continue to attend the district without having to reapply every year with two exceptions:

- Under certain circumstances, a student who needs special education may be required to return to the student's resident district.
- Poor attendance can be a criterion for dismissal from the program and students may be required to return to their resident district.

A student who is attending a nonresident school district under Open Enrollment may return to her or his resident school at any time.

For answers to specific questions not provided on-line or in informational brochures, please contact:

Darlene Anderson at andersonda@westosha.k12.wi.us or 262-843-2321, Ext. 221

Or Contact the Wisconsin Department of Education at openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov or call toll-free: 888-245-2732