

Open Enrollment Timelines

The Iowa Legislature reinstated the deadlines for filing open enrollment requests as of July 1, 2024. Parents/guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their child/ren in a public school district in the State of Iowa other than their district of residence should file an application with the resident district and receiving district by **March 1** to be considered for the following year. Those enrolling in kindergarten have until **September 1** to file an application for open enrollment. In order to qualify for open enrollment after the March 1 deadline, the student must meet the “good cause” definition. Good cause relates to:

- Change in family district of residence due to family move or change in state
- Change in student’s residence due to:
 - Change in residence from one parent or guardian to another
 - Change in the marital status of the student's parents that results in a change in resident district,
 - Change in guardianship or custody proceeding,
 - Placement of the child in foster care, or
 - Adoption
- Participation in a foreign exchange program
- Participation in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program that results in a change of residence
- Initial placement of preschool student in special education
- Failure of negotiations for reorganization or whole grade sharing
- Revocation of a charter school contract as provided in section 256F.8
- Loss of accreditation or revocation of a nonpublic or charter school contract
- Pervasive harassment or a severe health condition

Transportation: Parents are responsible for transporting children open enrolled to another district, unless economic eligibility requirements are met and the receiving district is next to the resident district. If a child open enrolls to a district that is contiguous to (or borders) the home district and the parents’ income meets economic eligibility requirements, the family may receive a stipend for transportation or be provided transportation by the resident district.

Athletic Eligibility: Students who open enroll in grades nine through 12 are not eligible to participate in varsity contests and competitions during the first 90 school days of transfer (not counting summer school) unless an exception applies allowing immediate eligibility. For more information on open enrollment please view the Iowa Department of Education website at:
<https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/educational-choice/open-enrollment>.

