



Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment Transfer Lottery Information – All Students (Residents and Non-Residents of the Birdville District)

GENERAL OVERVIEW

BISD is accepting SCHOOLS WITH A SPECIALIZATION (“SWAS”) OPEN ENROLLMENT transfer applications for Resident and Non-Resident students for the 2018–19 school year from March 5 to April 6, 2018*. This General Overview is limited to the approved Schools with a Specialization for students in grades K–8.

****This will be the only Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment Application Period in 2018.***

The District seeks to establish and maintain revenue producing programs to address the needs of today’s families. These programs are designed to broaden the student’s educational experience by providing concentrated study in a specific area of interest.

During the 2018–19 school year, BISD will continue its Schools with a Specialization initiative by adding two additional campuses to the offerings. These programs go above and beyond the state required curriculum. Based on feedback from parents and community leaders, BISD will continue expanding with additional programs on other campuses in the coming years.

In August 2018:

- **North Richland Middle School** (grades 6–8) will continue to expand its curriculum as a nationally STEM-certified middle school (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics);
- **Richland Middle School** (grades 6–8) will continue with a specialization in Leadership;
- **Smithfield Middle School** (grades 6–8) will open as an Advanced Learning and College Prep campus;
- **Haltom Middle School** (grades 6–8) will open as a College Readiness** campus; and
- **Birdville Elementary** (grades K–5) will continue with a Fine Arts Specialization.

***Haltom Middle staff are completing training to open the school as a certified “No Excuses University” campus.*

The elementary and middle schools will be open for transfer for students both inside and outside of BISD using the Schools with a Specialization Application process. These students do not face the obstacles posed by traditional campus attendance zones. Schools with a Specialization applicants will be selected through a lottery, based on space availability.

Factors that will determine whether a campus is available for Open Enrollment transfers include, but are not limited to: building capacity, current program or campus enrollment, growth projections, grade level enrollments, teacher allocations, professional staff allocations, and the student’s academic, behavior and attendance history.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Students applying for transfer are required to meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. Space must be available at requested campus or grade level;
2. The student must have 95% attendance for the previous semester and the last six weeks.
3. The student must be passing all current classes and all classes for the last semester completed.
4. The student must have passed all portions of their latest state-mandated test/assessment exam. Students from home schools, private schools or non-accredited schools must show satisfactory scores on standardized achievement tests at the 60th percentile or above and/or successful achievement on a District-delivered academic test.

Transfer applications require approval by the campus principal. Students who wish to transfer may apply through the Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment process. At a designated date a lottery will be held, after which all qualifying students will either be assigned to a campus or placed on a waiting list until space is available. **All parents will be notified of student acceptance or waiting list placement no later than April 13, 2018.**

If students are not chosen in the lottery due to space availability:

- Students from within BISD will return to their home campus, unless they qualify for the Regular Open Enrollment process.
- Students from outside BISD will be able to apply to another BISD campus that has available seats.
- The Regular Open Enrollment process will be open online from March 5 to April 27, 2018.

All approved transfers shall be granted for one school year at a time. Those participating in Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment must reapply annually.

There ***will not*** be a tuition fee for non-resident (out-of-district) students for the current school year; however, this waiver will be reviewed in successive years.

EXCEPTIONS

The following exceptions to the procedures outlined for the 2017–18 school year may be applicable, so long as a student meets the required criteria stipulated above for grades, attendance, test scores, behavior, tardies, and late pick-ups. Exceptions may be made if the applicant is a current student at the campus (students within the attendance zone) automatically qualify to attend their home campus and do not need an application.

A student who becomes a non-resident during the course of a grading period may be permitted to continue at the current campus for the remainder of the six-week grading period. Prior to the end of the grading period, parents may request a Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment transfer if the student qualifies and space is available. If so, the student may remain at the campus as long as they meet the criteria in the same manner as other students.

THE PROCESS

- Parents may apply for both middle school and Schools with a Specialization but they will need to make a first and second choice.
- Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received for students who meet the criteria.
- **Completed applications will ONLY be accepted from March 5 to April 6, 2018** unless it is from an employee who is hired after April 6. The applications will then be reviewed by the campus principal and an administrator in the office of student services to determine the final disposition.
- Any student may be denied annually based on behavior, excessive tardies, late pick-up or attendance.

All students who are outside the campus attendance boundaries must reapply and qualify annually.

TRANSPORTATION

Any student who requests and accepts a transfer to a school other than the one in his/her home attendance area shall be required to provide his/her own transportation to and from school.

Campus Response: Once the Lottery is held, parents will be given a choice to accept or reject the school choices. Students may also be placed on a waiting list and moved to their first or second choice if space becomes available.

POTENTIAL REASONS FOR DENIAL

(Original Application)

- Record of poor attendance, late arrivals or pick-ups, and/or disciplinary infractions
- If application is for the purpose of participating in athletics at receiving campus
- Falsification of information
- Failing grades
- Failing state-mandated test scores
- Failure to meet district criteria for transfer
- Decreased campus staffing
- Elementary projection exceeds 20 per class for K-4
- Elementary projection exceeds 22 per class for fifth grade
- Student projections reach 95% of campus/program capacity
- If any criteria is not met after being seated

If the student comes from Home School, Private School or Non-Accredited School:

- Satisfactory scores on standardized achievement test at 60th percentile or above
- Successful achievement on district-administrated academic test

SPECIAL NOTES

- Students who participate in University Interscholastic League (UIL) athletics are excluded from open enrollment transfers until they have verified eligibility through the director of athletics 817-547-5820.
 - ♦ Students who transfer for athletic purposes may lose all remaining eligibility.

SPECIAL NOTES (continued)

- Application is per student and not family. This is required because the student is applying for a specific vacant seat in a specific grade at a specific campus.
 - ♦ If a student is accepted and seated in the lottery, the campus principal may review the application to ensure all criteria have been met. If any portion of the criteria have not been met, the seated student may be denied after the lottery has been held.
- The campus principal may revoke a transfer at the end of a school year based on the student's poor attendance, excessive tardies, inappropriate student behavior or other items listed on BISD's website. The principal must review the student's IEP prior to implementing this process for a student receiving special education services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Information can be found online at:

www.birdvilleschools.net/openenrollment

- ♦ Frequently Asked Questions
- ♦ Scenarios

For other questions, call Student Services at 817-547-5790.

OPEN ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

Visit <https://www.Birdvilleschools.net/noboundaries> for SWAS Open Enrollment Application.