

Regular Open Enrollment Transfer FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is Open Enrollment?

Open Enrollment is a way that resident and non-resident students may request a transfer to a BISD campus other than the one in their attendance zone. Transfers are considered on a case-by-case basis and require approval by the principal and the superintendent's designee.

When is the Open Enrollment application period?

Students may *ONLY* apply **March 8 – April 14, 2017** for Open Enrollment for the 2017–18 school year. The only exception will be for children of employees who are hired after April 14.

Is the Open Enrollment process the same every year?

No, the process can change each year based on enrollment numbers and what is in the best interest of BISD.

Why are some grade levels limited for the 2017–18 school year?

Due to student growth or loss of students due to attrition, every campus and grade level are reviewed annually to determine space availability at each campus and grade level.

Why did the application not allow me to continue completing the form?

The application process may be discontinued if the eligibility criteria are not met.

Why is the grade level or school not listed where I would like my child to attend?

If the campus and/or grade level are not listed, this indicates that space is not available at that campus/grade level.

Why is BISD allowing non-resident students in the District?

Under the current school finance system, the state has frozen the amount of money the District receives based on the property values of Austin ISD in 2005. Local taxes do not fully support BISD. Nearly half of the District's budget is funded by the state.

How does this program benefit me as a taxpayer?

It adds additional state revenue to the District. The District will receive additional funds from the state for the attendance of the out-of-district students. Since the state pays Birdville ISD for occupied seats, this process adds approximately \$4 to \$5 million into the District's general fund annually.

Will allowing non-resident students from outside BISD cause my taxes to increase?

No. By filling available seats, BISD will receive additional state revenue as a result of the students attendance.

Are there any downsides to this initiative?

No, all students must meet our stated standards for attendance, academics and behavior; otherwise, they will be removed from the District.

Will this cause additional transportation costs?

No. Any student requesting/accepting a transfer to a school other than the one in his or her home attendance area will be required to provide their own transportation to and from school.

What are the criteria for acceptance or denial of a transfer request?

All Open Enrollment applications will be evaluated based on the following:

Acceptance

- The student must have 95 percent attendance for the previous semester and the last six weeks.
- The student must be passing all current classes and must have passed all classes from the last semester completed.
- The student must have passed all portions of their latest state test/assessment exam; non-accredited schools must show satisfactory scores on standardized achievement test at the 60th percentile or above and/or successful achievement on a District-administered academic test.

NOTE: *The campus principal may request to meet with the parent(s)/student(s) and/or have parents provide documentation of the above criteria.*

- Space/program availability
- Change of residence during the school year
- Pending acquisition of another home (timelines involved)

Denial

- Record of poor attendance, late arrivals, late 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 STAAR scores, TPRI, or other recognized tests.
- Failure to meet district criteria for transfer
- Increased campus staffing would be required
- Elementary projections exceed 20 students per class for grades 1–4 and/or 22 students per class for fifth grade.
- Student projections reach 95 percent of campus/program capacity
- If any criteria is not met after being seated

Why is the Open Enrollment application only available March 8 – April 14?

Due to the high volume of Open Enrollment applications received each year, Birdville only offers the spring application opportunity in order to balance classrooms and adhere to the 22:1 state student to teacher requirement.

How will I know my child is approved to attend the campus I've requested through Open Enrollment?

When submitted, your Open Enrollment application is routed to the requested campus principal. After approval by the principal, the application must be reviewed/approved by a Student Services department administrator. After the application is approved, you will be notified by email if your student is seated or placed on the waiting list.

Can I apply for more than one campus while the Open Enrollment application is available?

Yes. You may request up to three schools on the same application.

May I apply for Open Enrollment to a different campus after school has begun?

No, applications for Open Enrollment will only be accepted March 8 – April 14 for the 2017–18 school year.

Will speaking to the principal before I apply for Open Enrollment help increase my child's chances of being accepted?

No. Each application is processed individually and must meet the eligibility criteria listed in the Open Enrollment Transfer Information.