



Personalized Public Education

Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment Transfer Lottery

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is *Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment*?

Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment is a way that resident and non-resident students may request a transfer to a BISD *Schools with a Specialization* campus. Transfers are considered on a case-by-case basis and require approval by the principal and a Student Services department administrator.

When is the *Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment* application period?

For the 2017–18 school year, students may ONLY apply March 8 – April 4, 2017 for *Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment*. The only exception will be for children of employees who are hired after April 4, 2017.

Is the *Schools with a Specialization Open Enrollment* process the same every year?

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

What are the *Schools with a Specialization* campuses for the 2017–18 school year?

- **North Richland Middle School** will open as the only nationally STEM-certified middle school campus.
- **Richland Middle School** will have a Leadership specialization.
- **Birdville Elementary** will have a Fine Arts specialization.

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 I would like my child to attend not listed?

If the campus and/or grade level are not listed, this indicates that the campus is not a *Schools with a Specialization* campus.

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 annual budget is funded by the state.

Applicant eligibility is not restricted based on attendance zones (in- or out-of-district).

How does this initiative benefit me as a taxpayer?

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

Will allowing out-of-district students to attend 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 *Schools with a Specialization* Open Enrollment transfer to a school other than the one in his or her home attendance zone will be required to provide their own transportation to and from school.

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

No. All applications that have met **ALL** the eligibility criteria are included in the Lottery.

How does the Lottery process work?

The Lottery is designed to be a fair and objective process for all students. Only those applications which meet ALL eligibility requirements are included in the Lottery. Once the Lottery is held, parents will be notified by email of student acceptance status (no later than April 10, 2017). A student's application may be approved, placed on a waiting list pending available space, or denied.

Students selected in the Lottery and placed on a waiting list pending available space, who are subsequently advised that space is no longer available at their requested campus, will follow the applicable process below:

- In-district students will return to their home campus, unless they qualify and elect to apply for transfer to another campus through the Regular Open Enrollment process.
- Out-of-district students will be able to apply for transfer to another campus through the Regular Open Enrollment process.

Any student whose Open Enrollment application is denied will be required to return to their home campus (whether in- or out-of-district).