

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

Iowa Open Enrollment law allows parents/guardians to enroll their child in a district other than their district of residence without paying tuition by completing a timely filed open enrollment application. Open Enrollment applications are available from any Iowa School District, Area Education Agency or the State Department of Education. An application must be completed for *each* child and filed with the *receiving school district*.

Open enrollment applications must be filed with the receiving district by March 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which open enrollment is requested. For example, an application must be filed by March 1, 2015, in order to be approved for the 2015/2016 school year. For Kindergarten students the deadline is September 1.

Exceptions to these deadlines are as follows:

- Students currently living in and attending an Iowa district, and whose family moves to another Iowa district, but the student wants to remain in the original district;
- Students, who move into the district from out of state or for another reason considered to be good cause, as listed in the open enrollment law, may have the deadline waived.

Once an application is approved, your child may continue in the receiving district until they graduate, your move from your resident district or the parent rescinds the application. You do not need to reapply each year.

High School students who transfer school districts through open enrollment have a 90 school day waiting period to participate in varsity athletic competition, although they may practice with the team during this time. However, the student may participate immediately in a varsity interscholastic sport if the student is entering grade nine for the first time and did not participate in an interscholastic competition for another school or school district during the summer immediately following 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

If a parent/guardian meets income eligibility guidelines for transportation assistance, application for that assistance should be filed with the resident district. Transportation assistance is available only between contiguous districts. Income eligibility guidelines are available with the open enrollment application packet.

Can an Open Enrollment Application be denied? A request can be denied if the filing deadlines are not met, if the resident district has a diversity plan that would be adversely affected, if there is not classroom space available for the student or if the student is under suspension or expulsion from his/her current school district. Out of state residents are not eligible for open enrollment and would need to pay tuition to attend.

If you have any questions about open enrollment regulations, please contact the Superintendent.