

509 ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

I. PURPOSE

The school district desires to participate in the Enrollment Options Program established by Minnesota Statutes section 124D.03. The purpose of this policy is to set forth the application and exclusion procedures used by the school district in making said determination.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Eligibility.

Applications for enrollment under the Enrollment Options (Open Enrollment) Law will be approved provided that acceptance of the application will not exceed the capacity of a program, excluding special education services; class; grade level; or school building as established by school board resolution and provided that:

1. Space is available for the applicant under enrollment cap standards established by school board policy or other directive; and
2. In considering the capacity of a grade level, the school district may only limit the enrollment of nonresident students to a number not less than the lesser of: (a) one percent of the total enrollment at each grade level in the school district; or (b) the number of school district resident students at that grade level enrolled in a nonresident school district in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 124D.03.
3. The applicant is not otherwise excluded by action of the school district because of previous conduct in another school district.

B. Standards that may be used for rejection of application.

In addition to the provisions of Paragraph II.A., the school district may refuse to allow a pupil who is expelled under Minnesota Statutes Section 121A.45 to enroll during the term of the expulsion if the student was expelled for:

1. Possessing a dangerous weapon, including a weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, with the exception of a pocketknife with a blade less than two and one-half inches in length, at school or a school function;

2. Possessing or using an illegal drug at school or a school function;
3. Selling or soliciting the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function; or
4. Committing a third-degree assault involving assaulting another and inflicting substantial bodily harm.

C. Standards that may not be used for rejection of application.

The school district may not use the following standards in determining whether to accept or reject an application for open enrollment:

1. Previous academic achievement of a student;
2. Athletic or extracurricular ability of a student;
3. Disabling conditions of a student;
4. A student's proficiency in the English language;
5. The student's district of residence, except where the district of residence is directly included in an enrollment options strategy included in an approved achievement and integration program; or
6. Previous disciplinary proceedings involving the student. This shall not preclude the school district from proceeding with exclusion as set out in Section F. of this policy.

D. Application.

The student and parent or guardian must complete and submit a School District Enrollment Options Program application developed by Minnesota Department of Education and available on their website (education.mn.gov). Go to "Students and Families," then under "School Choice," select "Open Enrollment." The form is entitled "General Statewide Enrollment Options Application for K-12 and Early Childhood Special Education."

E. Open Enrollment Placement.

- A. The district will use a lottery in placing students, following the priorities noted below:

1. Priority One: Currently Enrolled Students

Nonresident students already enrolled before January 15 of each

year will be given a Priority One for continuance at the school at which they are currently enrolled.

2. Priority Two: Intra-District Transfer Requests

Resident students, who are already enrolled, may request a transfer to another site. The request must be written and submitted to the superintendent/designee for consideration.

3. Priority Three: Staff Siblings – Nonresident Students

Children of district employees, with current open enrolled siblings, will be given priority if the parent/guardian has submitted a request for admission to the district by January 15.

4. Priority Four: Siblings – Nonresident Students

Siblings of current open enrolled students will be given priority if their request for admission has been submitted to the district by January 15.

5. Priority Five: Staff Requests – Nonresident Students

Children of district employees, who are residents of other districts, will be given priority if the parent/guardian has submitted a request for admission to the district by January 15.

6. Priority Six: Open Enrollment – Nonresident Students

Nonresident students who have submitted their requests for admission to the district by January 15.

7. Priority Seven: Enrollment Options – Nonresident Students

In the event space continues to be available after January 15, families may apply under the Open Enrollment Agreement for admission to Alexandria Public Schools.

F. Exclusion.

1. Administrator's initial determination.

If a school district administrator knows or has reason to believe that an applicant has engaged in conduct that has subjected or could subject the applicant to expulsion or exclusion under law or school district policy, the administrator will transmit the application to the superintendent with a recommendation of whether exclusion proceedings should be initiated.

2. Superintendent's review.

The superintendent may make further inquiries. If the superintendent determines that the applicant should be admitted, he or she will notify the applicant and the school board chair. If the superintendent determines that the applicant should be excluded, the superintendent will notify the applicant and determine whether the applicant wishes to continue the application process.

Although an application may not be rejected based on previous disciplinary proceedings, the school district reserves the right to initiate exclusion procedures pursuant to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act as warranted on a case-by-case basis.

G. Termination of Enrollment.

1. The school district may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student enrolled under an enrollment options program pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 124D.03 or 124D.08 at the end of a school year if the student meets the definition of a habitual truant, the student has been provided appropriate services for truancy under Minnesota Statutes chapter 260A and the student's case has been referred to juvenile court. A "habitual truant" is a child under 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days in a school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days in a school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days in a school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school under Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22, subdivision 8. The school district may also terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student over 17 years of age if the student is absent without lawful excuse for one or more periods on 15 school days and has not lawfully withdrawn from school under Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22, subdivision 8.
2. A student who has not applied for and been accepted for open enrollment pursuant to this policy and does not otherwise meet the residency requirements for enrollment may be terminated from enrollment and removed from school. Prior to removal from school, the school district will send to the student's parents a written notice of the school district's belief that the student is not a resident of the school district. The notice shall include the facts upon which the belief is based and notice to the parents of their opportunity to provide documentary evidence, in person or in writing, of residency to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee will make the final determination as to the residency status of the student.

- H. Notwithstanding the requirement that an application must be approved by the board of the nonresident district, a student who has been enrolled in a district, who is identified as homeless and whose parent or legal guardian moves to another district or who is placed in foster care in another school district may continue to enroll in the nonresident district without the approval of the board of the nonresident district. The approval of the board of the student's resident district is not required.

Legal references:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 3(e) and Subd. 8 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (The Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Board Approval to Enroll in Nonresident District; Exceptions)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.68 (Graduation Incentives Program)
Minn. Ch. 260A (Truancy)
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 19 (Definitions)
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169-f (Aug. 13, 1986)
Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 623 v. Minn. Dept. of Educ., Co. No. A05-361, 2005
WL3111963 (Minn. Ct. App. 2005) (unpublished)

Cross References:

Policy 506 (Districtwide Student Discipline)
Policy 517 (Student Recruiting)

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Alexandria Public Schools - No. 206

Alexandria, Minnesota