

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

Students

BP 5116.1

Open Enrollment

OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Governing Board desires to provide enrollment options that meet the diverse needs and interests of District students and parents/guardians, while also maximizing the efficient use of District facilities. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the selection and transfer of students among district schools in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. The Board shall annually review this policy. (Education Code 35160.5, 48980)

The Superintendent or designee shall calculate each school's capacity in a non-arbitrary manner using student enrollment and available space. (Education Code 35160.5) In order to ensure that priorities for enrollment in district schools are implemented in accordance with law, applications for Open Enrollment shall be submitted timely within the District's Open Enrollment Options window which is typically between Fall and Late Winter of the school year preceding the school year for which the transfer is requested and can be found on the District's website at <https://www.ousd.org/enroll> or by calling the District's Welcome Center at at 510-879-4600.

Enrollment decisions shall not be based on a student's academic or athletic performance, except that existing entrance criteria for specialized schools or programs may be used provided that the criteria are uniformly applied to all applicants. Academic performance may be used to determine eligibility for, or placement in, programs for gifted and talented students. (Education Code 35160.5)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

RESERVING SEATS FOR STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS (IEPS)

Every school year, seats shall be identified and set aside in each Strategic Regional Analysis Region (SRAR) for students with an Individual Education Plan. In consultation with staff from Programs for Exceptional Children, the number of reserved seats in each SRAR shall be determined prior to the fall lottery, so that the seat inventory accounts for and accommodates the needs of special education students.

SAFETY TRANSFERS

These priorities ensure that students may transfer out of their neighborhood school to a different District-school under the circumstances listed below. Although a family's school preferences will be considered in selecting a school, these priorities do not guarantee a particular school.

1. Any student enrolled in a district school designated by the California Department of Education as "persistently dangerous" (20 USC 7912; 5 CCR 11992) (cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
2. Any student who is a victim of a violent crime while on school grounds (20 USC 7912)
3. Upon a finding that special circumstances exist that might be harmful or dangerous to the student in the current attendance area. Special circumstances include, but are not limited to, threats of bodily harm or threats to the emotional stability of the student. Any such student may transfer to a district school that is at capacity and otherwise closed to transfers. To grant priority under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee must have received either: (Education Code 35160.5) (a.) A written statement from a representative of an appropriate state or local agency, including, but not necessarily limited to, a law enforcement official, social worker, or a properly licensed or registered professional such as a psychiatrist, psychologist, or marriage and family therapist or (b.) A court order, including a temporary restraining order and injunction

ENROLLMENT PRIORITIES

The parents/guardians of any student who resides within District boundaries will be granted an enrollment priority in the lottery as described below, based on verification of residency documentation, regardless of which schools are identified as their "neighborhood schools" or the location of their residence within the district. (Education Code 35160.5) The Superintendent or designee shall grant priority to any District student to attend any District school as follows:

Dual Language Immersion Schools (Entrance Criteria): Placement at Dual Language Two Way Immersion Schools will be determined based on dual immersion entrance criteria, as defined in the OUSD BOE *AR Dual Language Schools* and through the open enrollment lottery process. Once entrance eligibility is determined appropriate priorities will be used in the lottery process as follows:

Continuing Student Priority: Priority is first given to continuing students who are currently enrolled at the school and who have not indicated plans to leave. A school exists under a defined CDS code.

Sibling Priority: In recognition of the Governing Board's stated policy goal of keeping families and siblings together, siblings of students who are enrolled in the school and who will be enrolled in the school concurrently with their sibling in the same school the following year will

be granted enrollment priority in the lottery process. (Education Code 35160.5)

Opportunity Ticket Priority: Previously, prioritization in the enrollment process was limited to siblings and neighborhood residents. There was an absence in prioritization for families impacted by closing schools and schools where families will need to move to a new location. The Opportunity Ticket gives these families will be granted enrollment priority in selecting a new school that they deem suitable for their children.

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Neighborhood School Priority (Neighborhood Priority): Attendance boundaries are established by the Governing Board. A family’s permanent residence falls within the geographic boundaries of an elementary, middle and high school within the District, and these schools are referred to as the “neighborhood schools” for that location. The neighborhood schools for a particular residential address can be found at: <https://oaklandfinder.schoolmint.net/school-chooser> or by calling the District’s Welcome Center at 510-879-4600. The Superintendent or designee shall grant enrollment priority in the lottery to any Oakland resident to attend their neighborhood District school, except as stipulated in the *Intra-district Transfers Outside Neighborhood Schools* section of this policy.

No student shall be displaced from his or her neighborhood school by another student transferring from outside the neighborhood school/ attendance boundary area. (Education Code 35160.5) (cf. 5116 - School Attendance Boundaries), except as stipulated in the *Intra-district Transfers Outside Neighborhood Schools* section of this policy.

School Staff Priority: When a parent/guardian's primary place of employment is at a school site, their child will be granted enrollment priority, in the lottery process, to attend the school at which their parent/guardian works, a school physically adjacent to their parent/guardian's school site, or on the same campus as their parent/guardian's school site.

Prioritization in High-Demand Schools (Oakland Resident Priority): In some circumstances, the number of students seeking to enroll in a school will exceed the available space in the school. Students with a parent/guardian with a permanent residence within the City of Oakland will be granted enrollment priority over non-residents in the lottery process.

Intra-District Transfers Outside Neighborhood School: The parents/guardians of any student who resides within District boundaries may apply to enroll their child in any District school, regardless of which schools are identified as their “neighborhood schools” or the location of their residence within the district. (Education Code 35160.5) The Superintendent or designee shall grant priority to any District student to attend another District school outside of his/her attendance area as follows:

ASSIGNMENT LOTTERIES

For a discussion of the Open Enrollment Lottery and Late Enrollment Lottery processes, please see AR 5116.1

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200 Prohibition against discrimination

35160.5 District policies; rules and regulations

35291 Rules

35351 Assignment of students to particular schools

46600-46611 Interdistrict attendance agreements

48200 Compulsory attendance

48204 Residency requirements for school attendance

48300-48316 Student attendance alternatives, school district of choice program

48350-48361 Open Enrollment Act

48980 Notice at beginning of term

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11992-11994 Definition of persistently dangerous schools

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311 State plans

7912 Transfers from persistently dangerous schools

COURT DECISIONS

Crawford v. Huntington Beach Union High School District, (2002) 98 Cal.App.4th 1275

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 95 (2002)

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Public School Choice FAQs

Every Student Succeeds Act 2016-17 School Year Transition Plan, April 2016

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Transitioning to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Frequently Asked Questions, rev. May 4, 2016

Unsafe School Choice Option, May 2004

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

7/14/04; 8/9/06A; 6/25/08A; 10/11/17A; 8/22/18A; 1/23/19A

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Regulation Students

AR 5116.1 Intradistrict Open Enrollment

School Grounds that becomes dangerous for a student

Within a reasonable amount of time that a student becomes the victim of a violent criminal offense while on school grounds, the student's parents/ guardians the student's parents/guardians may request an option to transfer their child to an eligible school identified by the Superintendent or designee.. The Superintendent or designee shall consider the student's needs and parent/guardian preferences in making the school assignment. If the parents/guardians choose to transfer their child, the transfer shall be completed as soon as practicable.

After learning that a school has been designated by the California Department of Education as "persistently dangerous," within a reasonable amount of time, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of the school's designation and of their option to transfer. The Superintendent or designee shall consider the needs and preferences of students and parents/guardians before making an assignment, but is not obligated to accept the parent/guardian's preference. Upon assignment, the transfer shall be completed as soon as possible. If parents/guardians decline the assigned school, the student may remain in his/her current school.

Enrollment Priorities

Families new to OUSD at any grade, as well as Pre-K, 5th grade, 8th grade students/families and those who wish to change schools at other grade levels complete applications during the Open Enrollment window. Our enrollment priorities are applied in the order listed below (if applicable to a specific school, language requirements will be used to determine eligible pools of applicants. See draft Board Policy on OUSD Dual Language 2-Way Immersion Enrollment)

~~1.~~ **1. CONTINUING STUDENT PRIORITY:** Priority is first given to continuing students who are currently enrolled at the school and who have not indicated plans to leave. A school exists under a defined CDS code.

~~2.~~

~~3.~~ **2. SIBLING PRIORITY:** If there are more applicants than available seats, priority will then be granted first to siblings of neighborhood students who already attend the school and will continue to attend the school in the coming year, and then siblings of other continuing non-neighborhood students who are currently enrolled at the school and who will continue to attend

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the school in the coming year; both siblings in these cases will be concurrently enrolled in the same school the following year if there is space available.

5. — 3. OPPORTUNITY TICKET:- Previously, prioritization in the enrollment process was limited to siblings and neighborhood residents. There was an absence in prioritization for families impacted by closing schools and schools where families will need to move to a new location. These families will be granted enrollment priority in selecting a new school that they deem suitable for their children. The Enrollment Office shall set aside a percentage of seats to accommodate the impacted students with Opportunity Ticket priority across all schools at the appropriate grade levels. Setting aside of these seats shall occur after all student applicants with sibling priority are offered seats. The percentage of seats set aside for opportunity tickets at any grade in a school shall not exceed 51% of the available seats, with the total number of students assigned to a school with an opportunity ticket not exceeding 10% of the total student enrollment at the school.

7. — 4. NEIGHBORHOOD: Next priority will be given to neighborhood students. Attendance boundaries are established by the Governing Board. A family’s permanent residence falls within the geographic boundaries of an elementary, middle and high school within the District, and these schools are referred to as the “neighborhood schools” for that location. The neighborhood schools for a particular residential address can be found at <https://oaklandfinder.schoolmint.net/school-chooser> or by calling the District’s Welcome Center at 510-879-4600. The Superintendent or designee shall grant enrollment priority in the lottery to any Oakland resident to attend their neighborhood District, except as stipulated in the *Intra-district Transfers Outside Neighborhood Schools* section of this policy.

8. — 5. SCHOOL STAFF PRIORITY: When a parent/guardian’s primary place of employment is at a school site, their child will also be granted neighborhood priority to attend the school at which their parent/guardian works, a school physically adjacent to their parent/guardian’s school site, or on the same campus as their parent/guardian’s school site. The

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enrollment department will refer to OUSD employment documentation to verify that the applicant is the child's parent or guardian.

40. 6. OAKLAND RESIDENT (General Lottery): Any schools that have available space can receive students from outside of the neighborhood through the Intradistrict Open Enrollment process. **Residents who live within district boundaries will be prioritized first.**

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Given the priorities above, the enrollment department will assign each child the highest-ranked priority or priorities for which they qualify. Priorities are determined at the time of the lottery and cannot be changed except in the case of error.

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Other priorities may be given to students redirected from their schools that do not have sufficient seat capacity. Students who have moved out of the Oakland Unified School District and who return later may be permitted to enroll in the Oakland school formerly attended provided that there is space at the aforementioned school. If there is not space at the selected school, students will be redirected in accordance with the procedure described above.

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With the continuing enrollment technology upgrades, to protect the economic interest of the district and educational well-being of students, the district shall have the ability to test and determine the impact of other priorities, based on place of residence, language proficiency, socioeconomic status, state Pre K status, environmental stress factors, feeder patterns, and other considerations. All proposed changes to enrollment policies will be tested in a "data sandbox" environment prior to making recommendations to the board.

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Placement outside of the attendance area

The Superintendent or designee reserves the right to consider placement outside the school attendance area of residence. Before special placement is made for any of these students, the appropriate Network Superintendent for the school area shall be informed of the student's name and placement plan. Except for placements approved by the Executive Director of Programs for Exceptional Children, other completed transfers in the following categories shall be referred to the Network Superintendent and the Enrollment office for approval. These categories include, but are not limited to:

1. Students recommended by the school psychologist for emotional adjustment and psychosocial problems.
2. Students returning from institutions, probationers, parolees, foster home placements and specific agency requests for preventative and rehabilitative purposes.

3. Handicapped and exceptional students for whom the Department of Programs for Exceptional Children has screening, placement, and follow up responsibilities, with the recommendation and approval of the Programs for Exceptional Children.
4. Discipline Hearing Panel referrals.
5. Other individual cases requiring study or special consideration.

Open Enrollment Process:

Pursuant to Education Code 35160.5:

1. Families new to OUSD at any grade, as well as Pre-K, 5th grade, 8th grade students/ families and those who wish to change schools at other grade levels complete applications during the Open Enrollment window.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall identify those schools which may have space available for additional students for the following school year. A list of these schools and open enrollment applications shall be available online and at the Student Enrollment Welcome Centers during the Open Enrollment Window period.
3. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available spaces, a lottery process from the eligible applicant pool shall determine enrollment in a school of choice. All applications received during the Open Enrollment time window will be placed in a lottery. The lottery will prioritize continuing students first, siblings second, neighborhood students third, children of site staff fourth, then remaining applicants. Within each of these categories, a lottery will determine both the order of potential offers for applicants as well as the order of placement on waitlists.
4. If no space is available, per the application of the lottery results, at any of the schools named on a specific application, an assignment will be made to the neighborhood school or another school nearby school.
5. The Superintendent or designee shall inform applicants their assignments from the lottery. The Student Enrollment Welcome Centers will manage the notification / waitlist process. Assigned applicants must confirm or reject the assignment by a specific date. Failure to complete the process will forfeit the assignment and allow placement of those active on the waitlist. Notifications shall be sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year describing all current statutory attendance options and local attendance options available in the district.(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications) Such notification shall include all options for meeting residency requirements for school attendance, programmatic options offered within the local attendance areas, and any special programmatic options available on both an interdistrict and intradistrict basis. This notification component also shall include a description of all options, a description of the procedure for application for alternative attendance areas or programs, an application form from the school district for requesting a change of attendance, and a description of the appeals process available, if any, for a parent or guardian denied a change of attendance. The notification component also shall include an explanation of the existing statutory attendance

options, including, but not limited to, those available under Section 35160.5, Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 46600) of Part 26, and subdivision (b) of Section 48204. (Education Code 35160.5, 48980.) Once enrolled, a student shall not be required to apply for readmission except for students in 5th and 8th grades.

6. Students receiving an offer at a school will have all of their applications to their lower-ranked schools cancelled. These students will automatically be placed on the waitlists for all of the schools they have ranked higher than the one to which they received an offer. This is the only means by which students may be placed on a waitlist during the on-time open enrollment process. For applicants placed on any waitlist(s) by the Open Enrollment deadline, the original lottery order is used to determine their placements on waitlists; late applicants are placed at the bottom of the list within their respective category on the basis of their assigned priorities. Students on waitlists will be offered seats at their desired school as space becomes available. After the 10th day of school, all waitlists are permanently dissolved.

7. Assigned applicants must confirm their enrollment by at their assigned school or with the Student Welcome Center within the published time frame. Failure to do so will forfeit their school assignment and waitlist assignments and allow placement of those active on the waitlists.

8. Applications received after the Open Enrollment deadline for the following year are placed during Late Enrollment application windows of time (specific dates to be determined and announced each year) based on a lottery using the same methods and priorities outlined above. Late enrollment applications will be placed automatically on waitlists at the bottom of their respective priority group.

9. Families that are dissatisfied with their enrollment offers from the Open Enrollment or Late Enrollment process may elect to have all of their offers and waitlist placements invalidated and may submit a new application during the subsequent Late Enrollment application windows. These applications will be considered late and will be processed and prioritized as such.

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

12/6/07; 12/19/07A; 6/25/08A; 8/18/18A; 1/23/19A