

EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OPEN ENROLLMENT (INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Open Enrollment?

Open Enrollment is a program that allows children who do not live within EPISD's boundaries to apply for enrollment in EPISD schools.

What grade levels are eligible for Open Enrollment?

Student applications will be accepted for kindergarten through 12th grades.

How does Open Enrollment work?

Parents for a child living outside of EPISD's boundaries must complete an application, available through Pupil Services, to the District. Once the completed application is received the campus principal will evaluate it and determine whether the student's application will be approved. Ultimately, the Area Superintendent will have final approval authority, subject to appeal in accordance with District policy.

Is there a tuition charge or fee?

No. Students who are accepted will attend school in EPISD at no charge. However, please note that elective courses, lab courses, etc. often require class fees, which are required of any student, regardless of whether he or she is a resident or not.

Where can I get an Open Enrollment application form?

The Open Enrollment application for interdistrict transfers is available on the District's website at http://www.episd.org/departments/pupil_services. Forms are also available from Pupil Services. Once an application is completed it should be returned to Pupil Services. The application must be submitted by the parent or guardian listed on the form. The application will be stamped with the date and time of its delivery. Pupil Services verify the information on the application and make sure the required documentation is complete. Pupil Services will submit the completed form to the Campus Principal for consideration.

What are the criteria for determining whether a transfer request is approved?

The criteria for consideration for an interdistrict transfer are explained in detail at Board Policy FDA (Local) and FDA (Regulation). Generally, the availability of space and staff, the student's disciplinary and attendance history, and the student's academic standing are all critical factors. In addition, the following priority sequence is to be applied: children of District employees working at the requested campus; children of District employees not working at the requested campus; children of active duty military; previous District residents enrolled in the District; children of parents residing outside the boundaries of the District, who are not in one of the prior categories.

If my child's application is accepted, can I choose which school he/she will attend?

EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OPEN ENROLLMENT (INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The application form allows the parent to list the choice of school for the student to attend. However, the District will only allow nonresident students to enroll in schools where there is available space and staff capacity. All grade levels may not be available at all schools.

Will the District provide transportation for my child?

No. Parents of children who enroll through open enrollment are responsible for transporting their children to and from school in EPISD.

Will out of district transfer requests receive priority for acceptance over intradistrict transfer requests?

No. Intradistrict transfer requests will be given priority over interdistrict transfer requests. In addition, the policy and regulations governing intradistrict transfers have not changed. Parents wishing to apply for an intradistrict transfer should refer to the policy and regulation governing intradistrict transfers in making such application.

Once a student is allowed into the District through open enrollment, how long can he or she stay?

After a student is accepted and allowed to enroll in our District, he or she can stay and remain in the District subject to space and capacity availability and compliance with the transfer agreement. Nonresident students must submit a renewal for interdistrict transfer every year in order to remain in EPISD for the next school year. While EPISD cannot guarantee that a nonresident student will be able to remain in EPISD from year to year, the District will make every effort to approve the transfer requests of students who are attending our schools and meeting the criteria for excellent attendance, behavior, and good academic standing. Returning students will have priority over new transfer requests.

If I am accepted for an out-of-District transfer, may I request to attend a different campus for the new school year?

If a new campus is requested a new application must be submitted for approval according to the same rules and criteria established for initial applications.

What if a student who enrolls through Open Enrollment repeatedly violates District rules?

Students who transfer into the District who do not follow the rules and regulations of the District, including those for student conduct and attendance may not have their transfer request renewed.

If my child participates in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities at his/her current school, will he/she be eligible to continue participating in those activities at EPISD?

Students who participate in UIL academic and music events will be eligible to participate in those same events in EPISD as long as the student is eligible under UIL general eligibility requirements. For example, a student who participates in varsity-level athletic competition may be ineligible to participate for one school year after the transfer. Specific questions must be answered on a case-by-case basis through the EPISD Athletics Department.

EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OPEN ENROLLMENT (INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the District allowing students from outside the District to attend school free of charge?

Even though parents of students who enroll through this program pay no EPISD taxes, Open Enrollment means more funds for our District. For each student admitted to EPISD through this program that complies with the requisite attendance standards, EPISD receives additional monies from the state of Texas, thereby increasing the District's state revenue for its general fund.