

 TUSD Tucson, Arizona GOVERNING BOARD POLICY	POLICY TITLE: Open Enrollment and School Choice
	POLICY CODE: JFB

The District has an open-enrollment program as set forth in A.R.S. 15-816 et seq. The open enrollment program described in this policy shall be placed on the District website and made available to the public on request.

No tuition shall be charged for open enrollment, except as authorized by applicable provisions of A.R.S. 15-764, 15-797, 15-823, 15-824, and 15-825.

Definitions

District resident pupil means all students who reside within the school district boundaries.

Resident transfer pupil means a resident pupil who is enrolled in or seeking enrollment in a school that is within the school district but outside the attendance area of the pupil's residence.

Nonresident pupil means a pupil who resides in this state and who is seeking enrollment in a school district other than the school district in which the pupil resides

Enrollment Options

District resident pupils may enroll in another school district or in another school within this District. Resident transfer pupils and nonresident pupils may enroll in schools within this District, subject to the procedures that follow

Information and Application

The Superintendent shall prepare a written information packet concerning the District's application process, standards for acceptance or rejection, and policies, regulations, and procedures for open enrollment. The packet will be made available to everyone who requests it.

The information packet shall include the enrollment application form and shall advise applicants that they must submit enrollment applications for priority enrollment on or before December 15 of each year to be considered for priority enrollment for the following school year.

Capacity

The Superintendent shall annually estimate how much excess capacity may exist to accept transfer pupils. The estimate of excess capacity shall be made for each school and grade level.

Assignment

Each student shall be assigned to an attendance zone school based on the student's legal address. If a student does not file an open enrollment/magnet application, the student will automatically be assigned to his or her attendance zone school.

A student wishing to enroll at a school other than his or her attendance zone school may apply to one of the following school choices:

- **Magnet Schools/Programs**

Magnet Schools/Programs offer a specialized curriculum to a student body representing a cross section of the community and reflecting its diversity. The District may establish entrance criteria for Magnet Schools/Programs, and only those students who meet the criteria shall be eligible to attend these schools or programs. Applications from eligible students for magnet schools will be accepted pursuant to the same rank-ordered priorities shown in Open Enrollment below.

- **Pipeline Schools**

Pipeline Schools are K – 12th grade schools designed to enable students to continue a theme or magnet program throughout their educational career. Students enrolled in an elementary or middle school identified on JFB – E 2, Identified Pipeline Schools, will be automatically eligible to attend the associated pipeline middle or high school upon promotion from the student's current school and will be placed in that school if the student, parent or guardian accepts that placement.

- **Open Enrollment**

If a student wants to attend a TUSD school other than that student's attendance zone school, but not a magnet school/program, the student may apply to that school through open enrollment. Applications for open enrollment will be accepted pursuant to these rank-ordered priorities.

1. District resident pupils who are siblings of students currently enrolled at the requested school.

2. District resident pupils who live in the attendance zone of a racially concentrated school and whose enrollment at the receiving school will help that school meet integration targets.
3. District resident pupils whose enrollment at the receiving school will help that school meet integration targets.
4. All other District resident pupils.
5. Non-resident pupils who are siblings of students currently enrolled at the requested school.
6. Non-resident pupils whose enrollment at the receiving school will help that school meet integration targets.
7. All other non-resident pupils.

Students who are not accepted into magnet schools, magnet programs, or open enrollment will be placed in a waiting pool and considered for acceptance when space becomes available. Placement will be made according to the priorities listed above.

Admission Standards

A pupil who has been expelled, or is in the process of being expelled, by any school district in this state or who is not in compliance with a condition of disciplinary action imposed by any other school or school district or with a condition imposed by the juvenile court shall not be admitted. Acceptance for enrollment may be revoked upon finding the existence of any of these conditions.

Notification

The District shall notify the emancipated pupil, parent, or legal guardian in writing whether the applicant has been accepted, placed on a waiting list pending the availability of capacity, or rejected.

As provided by A.R.S. 15-816.07, the District and its employees are immune from civil liability for decisions relative to the acceptance or rejection of the enrollment of a nonresident pupil when the decisions are based on good faith application of this policy and the applicable statutory requirements and standards

Adopted: August 4, 2010 (corrected wording)
Revised: October 18, 2012 (updated legal ref only)
Revised: May 2, 2014

LEGAL REF.: A.R.S. §15-341
§15-816
§15-816.01
§15-823
§15-824
§15-825

CROSS REF: Policy AC – Non-Discrimination; Policy JB – Equal Educational Opportunities and Anti-Harassment; Policy JC – Student Attendance Boundaries; Policy JE - Student Attendance