

NOTES FROM SCHOOL
By Greg Corning, Superintendent
School District of Mondovi
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WISCONSIN PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT
Full-Time Inter-District Open Enrollment in Wisconsin Public Schools
2016-2017 School Year
Information for Parents
Part I

This article is part one of a two-part series on basic information on the Full-Time Inter-District Open Enrollment program in Wisconsin Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year. If you should have any additional questions, please contact Shelly Teigen in the District Office at 926-3684, visit the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Open Enrollment website, or the Director of the Wisconsin Public Open Enrollment Program at the following address:

Website Address:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/oe>

Address/Phone:

Email: openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov
Public School Open Enrollment Program
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
PO Box 7841
Madison WI 53707-7841
1-888-245-2732

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend Wisconsin school districts other than the one in which they live.

Who may participate?

Wisconsin residents in five-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Students in four-year-old kindergarten and prekindergarten may participate only if the child's resident school district offers the same type program and only if the child is eligible for the program in the resident school district. Parents should call their resident school district to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

How and when may parents apply?

Parents must apply to non-resident school districts between February 1 and April 29, 2016. For the 2016-2017 school year, parents must apply **NO EARLIER** than Monday, February 1, 2016, and **NO LATER than 4:00 p.m.** on Friday, April 29, 2016. A postmark does not meet this requirement. The time may not be extended for any purpose. **(Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.)** A student may apply to no more than 3 nonresident school districts. **Applications can be completed on-line (recommended) at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oe>**. Application forms may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction, Public School Open Enrollment Program, PO Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841.

Can I apply to a virtual charter school under open enrollment?

It is strongly recommended that applications to attend virtual charter schools be submitted on-line. Other important things to know about applying to virtual charter schools:

- A virtual charter school is not home-schooling. Students attending virtual charter schools are public school students.

- You must know the nonresident school district in which the virtual charter school is located. If you have any questions about this, call the virtual charter school.
- You must know your resident school district in order to apply.
- A list of virtual charter schools may be found at <http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/charter-schools/virtual> .

Can an application be rejected?

Under certain circumstances, non-resident school districts may deny an application. These circumstances are:

- If there is no space for the student in the non-resident school district.
- If the student has been expelled during the current school year or during the two preceding school years for certain violent conduct.
- If the student was habitually truant from the nonresident school district during any semester in the current or previous year.
- If the special education program that the student needs is not available in the school district; if there is no space in the special education program; or if the student has been referred for an evaluation but has not yet been evaluated.

Can a resident school district prevent students from leaving?

Yes, in limited circumstances. A resident district can deny a pupil's application for an invalid application (early or late application or missing information), ineligibility due to age (too young or too old), or if the resident district does not offer the same type of prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten, or early childhood program as the nonresident district or the pupil is not eligible for the program in the resident district.

The following topics will be addressed in the next NOTES FROM SCHOOL article:

- May parents appeal if their applications are denied?
- Must students reapply every year?
- Is there a cost to parents for participating in open enrollment?

IMPORTANT DATES FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT

- Feb 1-April 29, 2016** Parents must apply to the nonresident school districts during this time period but not later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2016. (A postmark does not meet this requirement. The time period may not be extended for any purpose.)
- June 10, 2016** By this date, school districts must notify parents of acceptance or rejection of application. Parents may appeal a rejection within 30 days of receiving the notice of denial.
- June 17, 2016** By this date, school districts must notify parents of accepted applicants of the school or program to which the student is assigned.
- June 24, 2016** Parents of accepted applicants must notify nonresident school districts whether the student will attend the nonresident school district in the 2016-2017 school year. (If the parent fails to make this notification, the student may not participate in open enrollment)