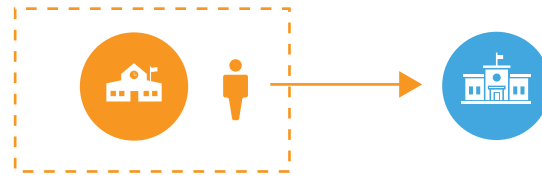


K12 OPEN ENROLLMENT

IN SOUTH CAROLINA

WHAT IS OPEN ENROLLMENT?

This policy allows students to attend a public school other than their residentially-assigned district school. There are two types of open enrollment: Intradistrict refers to transfers within a child's home school district, while interdistrict refers to transfers outside of a child's home district.



BENEFITS



Access to specialized academic programs and approaches

including arts, classical education, STEM, and project-based learning



Improves school districts

by incentivizing them to be more responsive to the needs of families



Access to high-performing schools

- In Texas, 45,000 students transferred to school districts that were outperforming their home districts.¹
- In Florida, more than 90% of the 5,000 inter-district transfer students enrolled in A- or B-rated districts.²



Escape bullying

MODEL POLICY

FLORIDA



- All districts must offer open enrollment
- Districts can only reject transfer applications for limited reasons, including capacity
- Districts are required to report available capacity for each school on their website

OPEN ENROLLMENT CHECKLIST FOR POLICYMAKERS	SOUTH CAROLINA
<p>Universal Inter-District Open Enrollment School districts are required to have an inter-district enrollment policy and accept transfer students, and are only permitted to reject transfer students for limited reasons, such as school capacity. Policies, including all applicable deadlines and application procedures, must be posted online on districts' websites.</p>	No
<p>Universal Intra-District Open Enrollment School districts are required to have an intra-district enrollment policy that allows students to transfer schools, and are only permitted to reject transfer requests for limited reasons, such as school capacity. Policies, including all applicable deadlines and application procedures, must be posted online on districts' websites.</p>	No
<p>Transparent Reporting from the State Education Agency The State Education Agency annually collects and publicly reports key open enrollment data by school district such as district transfer policies, transfer students accepted, transfer applications rejected, and reasons for rejections.</p>	No
<p>Public Schools Cannot Charge Tuition or Fees Districts are prohibited from charging families transfer tuition and/or fees.</p>	No
<p>Schools Districts are Required to Report Seating Capacity Districts are annually required to publicly report seating capacity by school and grade level.</p>	No
<p>Transportation Districts are permitted to bus transfer students across district boundaries without special permission, mileage caps, or other arrangements.</p>	No



CONTACT

Aaron Smith
Director of Education Policy
Reason Foundation
aaron.smith@reason.org

1. Jordan Campbell and Aaron Garth Smith, "Analysis of Texas School District Open Enrollment Data," Reason Foundation, 2021. <https://reason.org/data-visualization/analysis-of-texas-public-school-district-student-transfers/>

2. Vittorio Nastasi, "Florida's Open Enrollment Policy Can Serve As a School Choice Model," Reason Foundation, 2021. <https://reason.org/commentary/floridas-open-enrollment-policy-can-serve-as-a-school-choice-model/>