



OPEN ENROLLMENT

House Bill 2553

February 2022

WHAT IS OPEN ENROLLMENT?¹

- Open enrollment is a state-level policy that allows students to select and transfer to a school of their choice, rather than attend a school based on where they live. There are two types of open enrollment: inter-district, which allows students to select and attend another school outside their resident district, and intra-district, which allows students to select and attend another school within their resident district.
- Open enrollment policies can either be mandatory, meaning all districts must participate, or voluntary, which allows districts to choose whether to participate in open enrollment, or both.
- Twenty-eight states have mandatory open enrollment policies, thirty-four have voluntary policies.

Current Policy in Kansas

- Kansas currently provides for voluntary interdistrict enrollment, where boards of education may create agreements to allow transfers between districts.
- Voluntary Interdistrict Enrollment includes (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-13, 101):
 - Boards of education may make and enter into agreements providing for the attendance of pupils residing in one school district at K-12 schools maintained by any other school district.
 - Agreements may not exceed five years, are subject to change by the legislature, and can be changed or terminated by mutual agreement.

HOUSE BILL 2553: TAKES KANSAS FROM VOLUNTARY TO MANDATORY OPEN ENROLLMENT

HB 2553 improves Kansas' current open enrollment policy by adding the following provisions:

- Requiring districts to permit any Kansas student to enroll in and attend their schools.
- Putting local boards in charge of the specifics of transfer policies and processes, including funding decisions.
- Requiring school districts to determine and publish how much extra capacity they have for transfer students.
- Protecting students from selective transfer denials by requiring that districts accept transfers in the order they are requested.
- Gives the children of current members of the United States armed forces access to any school they choose.
- Creates an appeals process at the State Board.

All Kansas learners deserve access to the best educational experience we can give them.

House Bill 2553 equally empowers **all parents** to find that best educational experience for their learners.

¹ Education Commission of the States: <https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Open-Enrollment.pdf>