

Southwest Local School District Inter-District Open Enrollment Policy

The Board of Education shall permit the enrollment of students from any Ohio district in a school provided the enrollment is in accordance with laws and regulations of the State concerning Inter-District Open Enrollment, the provisions of this policy, and the administrative guidelines established to implement this policy. All open enrollment guidelines must be met before approval is granted.

Applicants interested in the open enrollment program must enter at the beginning of the school year.

Restrictions

No student shall be accepted into the open enrollment program if they have been suspended from any school in the current semester or the immediately preceding semester.

No student will be taken who has been expelled from another district or charter school.

No student shall be accepted into the open enrollment program who has been convicted and/or ruled a delinquent for committing any of the crimes listed below:

- A. Conveying deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance
- B. Possessing deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance
- C. Carrying a concealed weapon on school property or at a school function.
- D. Trafficking drugs
- E. Murder or aggravated murder
- F. Assault or aggravated assault
- G. Voluntary, or involuntary manslaughter.
- H. Rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration
- I. Complicity in any of the above offenses.

High School students who are credit deficient will be denied enrollment.

Revocation

Enrollment of an open enrollment student may be revoked as a result of poor attendance and/or repeated or serious violations of the student code of conduct. Poor attendance is defined as 10 unexcused tardies to school and/or absences in a school year.

Capacity

Consideration for open enrollment is subject to building capacity and class or program size and limitations. The number of openings in a particular program for students from other Ohio districts will be determined by optimum size for a particular program, classroom/school building or grade level which is the number of students that can be accommodated without increasing District expenditures for staff, space and equipment.

No open enrollment students will be allowed to enter a class in a school where an intra-district transfer has been denied.

Approved open enrollments may be subject to displacement due to excessive enrollment. In the event that the Superintendent or designee declares a program, grade level or building overcrowded, and if the District decides not to add staff, open enrollment students will be returned to their home districts to make space for students who officially reside in Southwest Local School District. These

students are termed “resident native.” The order of return will be in reverse order of enrollment – last in, first out.

Transportation

Parents/guardians of students attending the District through open enrollment are responsible for transportation to and from school and to and from activities outside of the regular school day. After students are approved for open enrollment, arrangements to meet a bus at a predetermined stop may be arranged through the Director of Transportation if space is available.

Special Education

The District shall not discriminate against any disabled students (IDEA or 504). The District shall not be required to provide any services or adapt any facilities not already provided to disabled resident native students. If an open enrollment student becomes disabled and requires special education or a reasonable accommodation after enrolling in the district, he/she may be transferred back to their home district, if the school he/she is attending in Southwest Local Schools is not currently providing the services for resident disabled students or cannot make the reasonable accommodation.

Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development Program

Open enrollment applicants who wish to participate in any Great Oaks Program will be screened through Great Oaks. These programs are only available for students in grades 11 and 12 or students 16 years of age or older. Acceptance into any program is based upon criteria established by Great Oaks.

High School Athletic Eligibility

In accordance with Bylaw 4-7-3 of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), a student who transfers to William Henry Harrison High School through open enrollment after their 9th grade year will be ineligible as per OHSAA rules and regulations.

Racial Balance

It is the intent of the Board to avoid racially isolated buildings or programs as result of this policy. The Board intends to maintain an appropriate racial balance as required by law.

A racially isolated building or program refers to a District building or program in which the racial composition of the students varies significantly from overall composition of the School District.

Should a concern arise regarding the racial balance in one or more of the District’s schools or programs, the Superintendent shall consult with legal counsel to determine the appropriate steps that should be taken and then make the appropriate recommendations to the Board.

Non-discrimination

The Southwest Local Schools Board of Education does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed or ancestry, age, gender, marital status or disability in employment or its educational program and activities.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

The following shall be the process for selection to the open enrollment program:

Enrollment Priority

Enrollment priority shall be given to resident native students.

Children of non-resident classified employees will be given the next order of priority. Starting in August 2012, only employees who reside in the State of Ohio will be permitted to have their children attend Southwest Local Schools.

In general, all other applicants will be enrolled on a first come, first serve basis contingent upon all criteria in the open enrollment policy. Selected applicants and their families will be interviewed by the Superintendent or designee prior to July 1.

Special consideration will be given to students who move during the year and wish to remain in the district.

Students who have been approved for open enrollment must apply each year.

Open Enrollment Time Lines

May 1 – Begin accepting applications at 8:00 am (Applications will not be accepted prior to this date.)

May 31 – Open enrollment deadline at 4:00 pm (Applications must be submitted to the District Office, 9860 West Rd., Harrison, OH 45030; faxed 513-367-2287; or emailed to shari.myers@southwestschools.org)

June 1 - June 30 – **Selected** applicants and their families will be interviewed by the Superintendent or designee.

On or prior to July 16 - Notice of approval will be sent to the students' parents/guardians.

On or prior to July 23 – Parents/guardians are required to submit a letter of acceptance

Open enrollment students who move into the District must be admitted to Southwest Local Schools as a resident native student upon proof of address within the district regardless of space.

Application Process

When submitting your application, the following items **MUST** be included **(if any of these items are missing you will not be called for an interview):**

- 1) Copy of Most Recent Report Card (through 3rd quarter) or Transcript
- 2) Attendance Record for the Current School Year
- 3) Discipline Record for the Current School Year
- 4) Current IEP or 504 Plan
- 5) Proof of Address (Utility bill, lease, etc.)

If your child is approved for Open Enrollment, and you are new to the District, you must complete and submit regular school enrollment forms.

Annual Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Board to determine whether to adopt a resolution to continue the policy or to rescind Open Enrollment.

Open Enrollment Policy Application

Date _____ Grade Level for the 2021-2022 School Year _____

Name of Student _____ Birth Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ Home Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____ Cell Phone Number _____

Address _____ City, Zip _____

School District Student Currently Attends _____ Building _____

School District of Residence _____

Special Education Classes/Services Required YES NO Type of Program _____

(IEP or 504 MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS APPLICATION)

School Requested _____

WE MUST HAVE PROOF OF RESIDENCE (a water or electric bill, or a signed lease agreement)

Please respond to the following questions: (please use back of the form)

Student Applicant: Why do you want to attend Southwest Local Schools?

Parent of Applicant: Why do you want your child to attend Southwest Local Schools?

I certify that all information contained in this application is true and complete and I understand that the falsification of any of the information will void this application and/or enrollment of my child in Southwest Local Schools.

Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received by: _____ Date and Time Received: _____

Meeting date between parent/student and superintendent or designee: _____

Approved _____ Rejected _____ Reason(s) _____

Superintendent's Signature _____