

**INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE****OPTION 1: Interdistrict Attendance Permits**

Note: The following option is for use by districts that have entered into an agreement with one or more other school districts to accept transfers through the "interdistrict attendance permit" or "reciprocal agreement" process pursuant to Education Code 46600-46611. (See Option 1 in the accompanying Board policy.) In 87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 132 (2004), the Attorney General opined that districts could not charge students a fee for processing applications for interdistrict attendance.

In accordance with an agreement between the Governing Board and the board of another district, a permit authorizing a student's attendance outside his/her district of residence may be issued upon approval of both the district of residence and the district of proposed attendance.

The Superintendent or designee may approve an interdistrict attendance permit for a student for any of the following reasons when stipulated in the agreement:

Note: Education Code 46600 requires districts to give priority for interdistrict attendance permits to a student who is a victim of an act of bullying, as provided below. For this purpose, Education Code 48900(r) defines bullying to include, but not be limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act directed specifically toward the student; see AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.

1. When the student has been determined by staff of either the district of residence or district of proposed attendance to be a victim of an act of bullying as defined in Education Code 48900(r). Such a student shall be given priority for interdistrict attendance under any existing interdistrict attendance agreement or, in the absence of an agreement, shall be given consideration for the creation of a new permit. (Education Code 46600)

*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*

Note: **Optional** items #2-12 below should be revised and/or deleted to reflect district practice.

2. To meet the child care needs of the student. Such a student may be allowed to continue to attend district schools only as long as he/she continues to use a child care provider within district boundaries.

*(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)*

3. To meet the student's special mental or physical health needs as certified by a physician, school psychologist, or other appropriate school personnel.

*(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)*

4. When the student has a sibling attending school in the receiving district, to avoid splitting the family's attendance.

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5. To allow the student to complete a school year when his/her parents/guardians have moved out of the district during that year.
6. To allow the student to remain with a class graduating that year from an elementary, middle, or senior high school.
7. To allow a high school senior to attend the same school he/she attended as a junior, even if his/her family moved out of the district during the junior year.
8. When the parent/guardian provides written evidence that the family will be moving into the district in the immediate future and would like the student to start the year in the district.
9. When the student will be living out of the district for one year or less.
10. When recommended by the school attendance review board or by county child welfare, probation, or social service agency staff in documented cases of serious home or community problems which make it inadvisable for the student to attend the school of residence.

*(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)*

*(cf. 5113.12 - District School Attendance Review Board)*

11. When there is valid interest in a particular educational program not offered in the district of residence.
12. To provide a change in school environment for reasons of personal and social adjustment.

Note: In 84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 198 (2001), the Attorney General opined that a lack of school facilities is a justifiable reason for denial of the interdistrict attendance permit request. However, according to the Attorney General, once the student is admitted, the district may not later deny the student continued attendance at a district school because of overcrowding. Although Attorney General opinions are not binding on the courts, they are generally afforded deference in the court when there is no specific statutory or case law to the contrary. The following paragraph is based on this Attorney General opinion.

The Superintendent or designee may deny initial requests for interdistrict attendance permits due to limited district resources, overcrowding of school facilities at the relevant grade level, or other considerations that are not arbitrary. However, once a student is admitted, the district may not deny him/her continued attendance because of overcrowded facilities at the relevant grade level.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

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Note: Education Code 46601 requires that, within 30 days of a request for an interdistrict permit, parents/guardians whose permit application was denied must be informed about their right to appeal to the County Board of Education. This notice shall be provided by the district denying the request, or, in the absence of an agreement between the districts, by the district of residence.

Pursuant to Education Code 46601, parents/guardians may submit their appeal within 30 calendar days of the failure or refusal to issue the permit. The County Board then has 30 calendar days, unless extended by an additional five school days for good cause, to make its determination as to whether the student should be allowed to attend the district of his/her choice. However, as amended by SB 344 (Ch. 461, Statutes of 2017), Education Code 46601 allows a class 1 county (i.e., a county with a 1994-95 average daily attendance (ADA) of 500,000 or more for all districts in the county) 60 calendar days to make its determination, and a class 2 county (i.e., a county with a 1994-95 ADA of 180,000-499,999) 45 calendar days to make its determination.

Pursuant to Education Code 46602, if the County Board determines that the student should be permitted to attend the district of his/her choice, the district shall admit the student without delay.

Within 30 calendar days of a request for an interdistrict permit, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of a student who is denied interdistrict attendance regarding the process for appeal to the County Board of Education as specified in Education Code 46601. (Education Code 46601)

*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*

Pending a decision by the two districts or an appeal by the County Board, the Superintendent or designee may provisionally admit a student who resides in another district for a period not to exceed two school months. (Education Code 46603)

Students who are under consideration for expulsion or who have been expelled may not appeal interdistrict attendance denials or decisions while expulsion proceedings are pending or during the term of the expulsion. (Education Code 46601)

*(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)*

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 46600, once an interdistrict permit is granted and the student is enrolled in the new school, the district of enrollment (1) may not require the student to reapply; (2) must allow the student to continue to attend the school, unless the permit contains specific standards for reapplication; and (3) along with the district of residence, may not revoke the student's existing permit if he/she is entering grade 11 or 12. Therefore, even if an interdistrict attendance agreement between the two districts has expired, the student may be allowed to continue attending the school to which he/she has transferred, unless the agreement contains specific language requiring reapplication.

Once a student is admitted to a school on the basis of an interdistrict attendance permit, he/she shall not be required to reapply for an interdistrict transfer and shall be allowed to continue to attend the school in which he/she is enrolled, unless reapplication standards are

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otherwise specified in the interdistrict attendance agreement. Existing interdistrict attendance permits shall not be rescinded for students entering grade 11 or 12 in the subsequent school year. (Education Code 46600)

**OPTION 2: School District of Choice Program**

Note: The following section is for use by districts that elect to participate in the school district of choice program pursuant to Education Code 48300-48317. (See Option 2 in the accompanying Board policy.)

The Superintendent or designee shall communicate with parents/guardians regarding transfer opportunities under the school district of choice program. Communications sent to parents/guardians shall be available in all languages for which translations are required pursuant to Education Code 48985, shall be factually accurate, and shall not target particular neighborhoods or individual parents/guardians on the basis of a child's actual or perceived academic or athletic skill or any other personal characteristic. (Education Code 48301, 48980)

Note: The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Education Code 48312, as amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), requires a school district of choice to make public announcements regarding district schools, programs, policies, and procedures, including transportation options. Education Code 48302, as amended by AB 99, encourages districts to hold informational meetings and make public announcements regarding the current educational programs offered by the district so that parents/guardians may make informed decisions regarding their child's education and provide input on methods to improve the current programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall also make public announcements regarding district schools, programs, policies, and procedures, including transportation options if applicable, during the enrollment period. (Education Code 48312)

Note: Education Code 48301, as amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), requires that application information be posted on the district's web site.

The process for student transfers into the district under the school district of choice program, including, but not limited to, any applicable form, the timeline for a transfer, and an explanation of the selection process, shall be posted on the district's web site. (Education Code 48301)

*(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)*

Parents/guardians shall submit applications for interdistrict attendance to the district office by January 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which the student may be transferred. The application deadline may be waived upon agreement between the district and the student's district of residence. (Education Code 48308)

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The application deadline shall not apply to an application requesting a transfer if the parent/guardian with whom the student resides is enlisted in the military and was relocated by the military within 90 days prior to submitting the application. (Education Code 48308)

*(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)*

Note: Education Code 48306, as amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), adds a requirement that second priority for admission under the school district of choice program be given to students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals and that third priority be given to children of military personnel.

Priority for transfer under the school district of choice program shall be granted as follows: (Education Code 48306)

1. First priority shall be given to siblings of students already in attendance in the district.
2. Second priority shall be given to students eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

*(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)*

3. Third priority shall be given to children of military personnel.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48305, if the district chooses to use existing entrance criteria for specialized schools or programs, then the criteria must be uniformly applied. The following **optional** paragraph is for use by districts that choose to use existing entrance criteria.

Any existing entrance criteria for specialized schools or programs shall be uniformly applied to all applicants. (Education Code 48305)

Note: Items #1-2 below are **optional** and may be revised to reflect district practice.

The district may deny a transfer into the district under the school district of choice program under either of the following circumstances:

Note: Education Code 48303 provides that a district may not deny a transfer because the additional cost of educating the student would exceed the amount of additional state aid to be received. However, pursuant to Education Code 48303, a transfer may be rejected if it would require the district to create a new program to serve the student, as specified in item #1.

1. The transfer into the district would require the district to create a new program to serve that student, except that the district shall not reject the transfer of a student with disabilities or an English learner. (Education Code 48303)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48307, a school district of choice may prohibit a transfer into the district if the Governing Board determines that the transfer would negatively impact a court-ordered desegregation plan, a voluntary desegregation plan, or the racial and ethnic balance of the district. In Crawford v.

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Huntington Beach Union High School District, a California appellate court held that a district's intradistrict open enrollment policy, which contained a racial and ethnic balance component as authorized by Education Code 35160.5, was unconstitutional. According to the court, because the constitutional provisions added by Proposition 209 in 1996 (California Constitution, Article 1, Section 31) prohibit discrimination against or preferential treatment for any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin, a district must not adopt a policy containing different admission criteria on the basis of race. However, pursuant to Education Code 48307, as amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), denial of transfers on the basis of a voluntary desegregation plan or the racial and ethnic balance of the district must be consistent with the provisions of Proposition 209. It is recommended that the district consult legal counsel before adopting a policy to allow the denial of transfers on either of these bases.

For language regarding student transfers out of the district for any of the reasons specified in item #2a-c, see section "Transfers Out of the District" below.

2. The Board determines that the transfer into the district would negatively impact any of the following: (Education Code 48307)
  - a. A court-ordered desegregation plan
  - b. A voluntary desegregation plan of the district, consistent with the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 31
  - c. The racial and ethnic balance of the district, consistent with the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 31

Whenever the number of transfer applications exceeds the number of interdistrict transfers that may be accepted as annually determined by the Governing Board, students accepted for transfer shall be selected by a random drawing held in public at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. (Education Code 48301)

Note: Education Code 48308, as amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), requires that parents/guardians of students who have requested a transfer be provided the following notice by February 15.

Between January 1 and February 15 of the school year preceding the school year for which the student is requesting to be transferred, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian in writing whether the application has been provisionally accepted or rejected or of the student's position on any waiting list. (Education Code 48308)

Note: Education Code 48308, as amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), requires the following notifications to the district of residence.

If a student's application for transfer is accepted, the Superintendent or designee shall so notify the student's district of residence no later than February 15 of the school year preceding the school year for which the student is requesting to be transferred. (Education Code 48308)

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The number of students accepted for transfer into the district, by school and grade level, shall be reported to the district of residence on or before February 15. (Education Code 48308)

If a student's application is denied, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parents/guardians that the number of students requesting to transfer exceeded the district's capacity and that the student was not selected during the random drawing. The determination shall be accurately recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting at which the determination was made. (Education Code 48308)

*(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)*

For a student whose parent/guardian was relocated by the military 90 days prior to the submission of the application, the district shall make a final decision to accept or reject the application within 90 days of its receipt. If the student's application has been submitted less than 90 days prior to the beginning of the school year, then the district shall accept or deny the application before the school year begins. Upon his/her acceptance, the student may immediately enroll in a district school. (Education Code 48308)

Vacancies may be filled from the waiting list until May 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which students are requesting to be transferred. (Education Code 48308)

The final number of students accepted for transfer into the district, by school and grade level, along with the names of the students, shall be reported to the district of residence on or before May 2. (Education Code 48308)

Students admitted through the school district of choice program are deemed to have fulfilled district residency requirements pursuant to Education Code 48204. (Education Code 48301)

*(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)*

*(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)*

Final acceptance of the transfer is applicable for one school year and shall be renewed automatically each year unless the Board, by adoption of a resolution, withdraws from participation in the program and no longer accepts transfer students from other districts. (Education Code 48308)

Note: The following paragraph may be revised by districts that do not maintain high schools.

Even if the district withdraws from participation in the program, students who attended or received a notice of acceptance into the district before the Board's resolution of withdrawal shall be permitted to attend school in the district, and admitted high school students may continue attending school in the district until they graduate from high school. (Education Code 48307, 48308)

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The district may accept any completed coursework, attendance, and other academic progress credited to an accepted student by any district(s) he/she has previously attended and may grant academic standing to the student based upon the district's evaluation of the student's academic progress. (Education Code 48309)

*(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)*

The district may revoke a student's enrollment if he/she is recommended for expulsion pursuant to Education Code 48918. (Education Code 48309)

**Transfers Out of the District**

Note: The following **optional** section is for use by all districts.

Pursuant to Education Code 48307, a district must not deny a student whose parent/guardian is in active military duty from transferring out of the district to any other district. In addition, Education Code 46600, as amended by AB 2659 (Ch. 186, Statutes of 2016), provides that a district must not prohibit the transfer of such a student out of the district to any other district that approves the transfer, regardless of whether or not an interdistrict transfer agreement exists or a permit is issued.

A student whose parent/guardian is in active military duty shall not be prohibited from transferring out of the district, provided the school district of proposed enrollment approves the application for transfer. (Education Code 46600, 48307)

The district may limit transfers out of the district to a school district of choice under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48307)

Note: Even if a district has not designated itself as a school district of choice, it has the authority pursuant to Education Code 48307 to limit the number of students transferring out of the district into other districts that have designated themselves as school districts of choice. A district with an ADA of more than 50,000 may annually limit the number of such transfers to one percent of its current year estimated ADA. A district with an ADA of 50,000 or less may limit the number of such transfers to three percent of its current estimated ADA and may limit the maximum number of such transfers for the duration of the program to 10 percent of the ADA for that period. In Walnut Valley Unified School District v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County, the appellate court held that the 10 percent cap on outbound transfers "for the duration of the program" should be based on the district's ADA over the entire life of the district of choice program (i.e., from the program's inception in 1994 until the present day). The district may revise item #1 to reflect the applicable percentage in Education Code 48307 based on its ADA.

1. The number of student transfers out of the district to a school district of choice has reached the limit specified in Education Code 48307 based on the district's average daily attendance.

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2. The County Superintendent of Schools has given the district a negative budget certification or has determined that the district will not meet the state's standards and criteria for fiscal stability in the subsequent fiscal year exclusively as a result of student transfers from this district to a school district of choice.

*(cf. 3100 - Budget)*

Note: Item #3 is **optional** and should be revised to reflect district practice. As noted above in the section "Option 2: School District of Choice Program," Education Code 48307 authorizes the district to prohibit a transfer in or out of the district under the school district of choice program if the Board determines that the transfer would negatively impact a court-ordered desegregation plan, a voluntary desegregation plan, or the racial and ethnic balance of the district. As amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), Education Code 48307 provides that denial of transfers on the basis of a voluntary desegregation plan or the racial and ethnic balance of the district must be consistent with the constitutional provisions added by Proposition 209 in 1996 (California Constitution, Article 1, Section 31). It is recommended that districts consult legal counsel before adopting policy to allow denial of transfers on either of these bases.

3. The Board determines that the transfer would negatively impact any of the following: (Education Code 48307)
  - a. A court-ordered desegregation plan
  - b. A voluntary desegregation plan of the district, consistent with the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 31
  - c. The racial and ethnic balance of the district, consistent with the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 31