

**INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE**

Note: The Education Code provides a number of options under which a district may enroll a student whose parent/guardian does not reside within district boundaries. Under an "interdistrict attendance permit" or "reciprocal agreement" pursuant to Education Code 46600-46611, a student may attend school in a different district when both the district of residence and the district of proposed attendance agree (Option 1 below). Alternatively, pursuant to Education Code 48300-48317, the Governing Board may declare the district to be a "school district of choice" willing to accept a specific number of interdistrict transfers into the district through a random selection process (Option 2 below). In order to maintain the integrity of the random selection process, it is recommended that a school district of choice not also accept transfers under the interdistrict attendance permit option except when extraordinary circumstances exist, as provided in Option 2 below. Districts that wish to use both sources of authority should consult legal counsel.

In addition, pursuant to Education Code 48204, a district may authorize a student whose parent/guardian is employed within district boundaries to attend a school in the district (Allen bill transfer); see AR 5111.1 - District Residency. A student attending a school identified as low achieving on the state's Open Enrollment List may transfer to a school in any other district in the state, pursuant to Education Code 48350-48361; see BP/AR 5118 - Open Enrollment Act Transfers.

The Governing Board recognizes that parents/guardians of students who reside within the geographic boundaries of one district may, for a variety of reasons, desire to enroll their children in a school in another district.

*(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)*

*(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)*

*(cf. 5118 - Open Enrollment Act Transfers)*

**OPTION 1: Interdistrict Attendance Permits**

Note: The following section is for use by districts that have entered into an agreement with one or more other districts to accept transfers through interdistrict attendance permits pursuant to Education Code 46600-46611. Districts selecting this option should also select Option 1 in the accompanying administrative regulation.

The Board may enter into an agreement with any other school district, for a term not to exceed five school years, for the interdistrict attendance of students who are residents of the districts. (Education Code 46600)

Note: Education Code 46600 requires that the interdistrict attendance agreement specify the terms and conditions under which individual permits may be granted or denied. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 46600, students who have been granted an interdistrict attendance permit must be allowed to continue to attend the school without having to reapply unless the agreement between the two districts contains specific agreed-upon standards for reapplication; see the accompanying administrative regulation. Districts also may include in the agreement their agreed-upon standards for revocation of students' interdistrict attendance. Examples of conditions that may result in revocation include falsification of information stated on the permit application, unsatisfactory attendance, continual disruption, or poor academic achievement.

The agreement shall specify the terms and conditions under which interdistrict attendance shall be permitted or denied. It also may contain standards agreed to by both districts for reapplication and/or revocation of the student's permit. (Education Code 46600)

**INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE** (continued)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 46600, it is the responsibility of the attendance supervisor of the district of residence, subject to board policies of the district of residence and terms of the agreement, to issue an individual permit verifying the district's approval of an interdistrict transfer out of the district. The permit shall become valid when endorsed by the board's designee in the district of proposed attendance.

Upon receiving a permit for transfer into the district that has been approved by the student's district of residence, or upon receiving a written request from the parent/guardian of a district student who wishes to enroll in another district, the Superintendent or designee shall review the request and may approve or deny the permit subject to the terms and conditions of the interdistrict attendance agreement.

**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. Districts selecting this option should also select Option 2 in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Pursuant to Education Code 48301, as amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), any district that elects to participate in this program must, on or before July 1, 2018, register as a school district of choice with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the County Board of Education. Pursuant to Education Code 48317, as amended by AB 99, failure to register will result in the loss of a portion of the district's local control funding formula apportionment attributable to the average daily attendance (ADA) of students enrolled through the school district of choice program in the previous year.

The Board has designated the district as a "school district of choice" and shall accept students who reside in other California districts who wish to attend a district school.

Each year, the Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Board the number of transfer students that the district will be able to accept and shall identify the schools, grade levels, and programs that will be able to accept these students.

Note: Education Code 48301, as amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), requires that a school district of choice accept all transfers up to the maximum number established by the Board.

The Board shall, by resolution, annually establish the number of students who will be accepted into the district through this program. Once established, the district shall accept all students who apply to transfer into the district until the district is at maximum capacity. (Education Code 48301)

Note: Whenever the number of student applications exceeds the number of transfers that the Board has established, Education Code 48301 requires a random, unbiased process for selecting students who will be admitted and prohibits consideration of certain factors. AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017) amended Education Code 48301 to expand the list of factors that must not be considered. Pursuant to Education Code 48301, family income may only be considered to the extent necessary to determine enrollment priority pursuant to Education Code 48306; see the accompanying administrative regulation.

**INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE** (continued)

The Board shall establish a selection process which ensures that students are admitted to district schools through an unbiased process that prohibits an inquiry into or evaluation or consideration of whether or not a student should be enrolled based upon his/her academic or athletic performance, physical condition, proficiency in English, any of the individual characteristics set forth in Education Code 200, or family income. (Education Code 48301)

If the number of transfer applications exceeds the number of transfers the Board has elected to accept, approval for transfer shall be determined by a random drawing held in public at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. (Education Code 48301)

Note: Because the school district of choice program requires a random selection process, it is recommended that participating districts not admit students through the interdistrict attendance permit process described in Option 1 above except under extraordinary circumstances. Such circumstances might include approving interdistrict attendance permits for students who are victims of an act of bullying. Such students are given priority for interdistrict attendance permits pursuant to Education Code 46600; see the accompanying administrative regulation.

Because the district admits students in accordance with the school district of choice program, the Superintendent or designee shall not admit students based on individual interdistrict attendance permits pursuant to Education Code 46600-46611 except under extraordinary circumstances.

Note: Education Code 48313 requires a school district of choice to maintain and report specified information regarding requests for transfers and the disposition of those requests. As amended by AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017), Education Code 48313 requires this report to include the eligibility for free or reduced-price meals of students transferring into or out of the district and the number of students provided transportation; see items #3 and 5 below.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of requests for admittance that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 48313)

1. The number of requests granted, denied, or withdrawn and, for denied requests, the reason for the denial
2. The number of students transferred into and out of the district pursuant to this program
3. The race, ethnicity, gender, self-reported socioeconomic status, eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, and the district of residence for each student transferred into or out of the district pursuant to this program
4. The number of students transferred into or out of the district pursuant to this program who are classified as English learners or students with disabilities

## INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE (continued)

Note: Education Code 48311 authorizes, but does not require, a school district of choice to provide transportation to participating students to the extent that the district provides transportation assistance to other students. See section on "Transportation" below. Item #5 may be deleted by districts that do not provide transportation.

5. As applicable, the number of students described in items #3 and 4 above who are provided transportation assistance to a district school or program, and the total number of students provided transportation assistance, pursuant to the school district of choice program

Note: AB 99 (Ch. 15, Statutes of 2017) amended Education Code 48313 to revise the deadline for submitting the above report and to delete the requirement to submit the report to the Department of Finance. As amended, Education Code 48313 requires the California Department of Education to collect and report statewide data on its web site and to share the information with specified state agencies.

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the information specified in items #1-5 above. No later than October 15 of each year, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the same information for the current school year, as well as information regarding the district's status as a school district of choice in the upcoming school year, to each geographically adjacent school district, the county office of education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Education Code 48313)

The district's compliance with program requirements shall be subject to the annual district audit conducted pursuant to Education Code 41020. (Education Code 48301)

*(cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)*

### Transportation

Note: The following **optional** section is for use by all districts and should be revised to reflect district practice. Districts are not required to provide transportation or transportation assistance to students admitted under an interdistrict attendance permit pursuant to Education Code 46600-46611. Pursuant to Education Code 48311, a school district of choice is authorized, but not required, to provide transportation assistance to the extent that the district otherwise provides transportation assistance to students.

The district shall not provide transportation beyond any school attendance area. Upon request of a student's parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation for an interdistrict transfer student to and from designated bus stops within the attendance area of the school that the student attends if space is available.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE (continued)

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

41020 Annual district audits

46600-46611 Interdistrict attendance agreements

48204 Residency requirements for school attendance

48300-48317 Student attendance alternatives, school district of choice program

48350-48361 Open Enrollment Act

48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion; definition of bullying

48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

48915.1 Expelled individuals: enrollment in another district

48918 Rules governing expulsion procedures

48980 Notice at beginning of term

52317 Regional occupational center/program, enrollment of students, interdistrict attendance

#### CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 1, Section 31 Nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

87 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 132 (2004)

84 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 198 (2001)

#### COURT DECISIONS

Walnut Valley Unified School District v. the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, (2011) 192 Cal.App.4th 234

Crawford v. Huntington Beach Union High School District, (2002) 98 Cal.App.4th 1275

### *Management Resources:*

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>