

Open Enrollment and Eligibility

The KSHSAA continues to receive many questions regarding the statute creating open enrollment (school choice) and eligibility for interscholastic activity participation. The following information will answer many of those most frequently asked questions.

1. Is a student eligible without restrictions for all activities at the new school of choice?

*No. The transfer-eligibility rule applies. As families are choosing to change schools, the transfer rule would apply and absent any other factors, the student would be eligible at the non-varsity level for one year at high school level and 18 school weeks at the middle/junior high school level per **Transfer Rule 18-1-6** (full text available <https://www.kshsaa.org/Publications/Handbook.pdf>). In the new statute (House Sub for SB 387 Sec.7(m)), enrollment is offered, and eligibility is to follow KSHSAA adopted rules.*

2. Can open enrollment students participate in school activities in the summer preceding their enrollment?

*Students may participate in school summer activities only in the school they will be attending in the fall. If admission has not been approved, the student **may not** participate in any school activities until such time their enrollment is officially approved by the new school administration. After approval, they may participate in summer activities like any other school student. For most students, they will need to wait until July 1 until enrollment options are offered and accepted.*

3. Do schools have to allow any student to enroll?

No. Schools have identified capacities and will limit non-district student enrollment up to that limit.

4. Does Open Enrollment apply to high school and middle/junior high school?

Yes. It actually applies K-12, but KSHSAA governs interscholastic activities in grades 7-12.

5. What if the family decides that the local school is a better option than the new school and returns to the previously attended school?

*The transfer rule applies anytime a student changes schools other than the first day of attendance in 7th or 9th grade. Accordingly, a student returning to their local school is subject to **Rule 18 – Transfer**.*

6. Are nonpublic school students (home school and private) able to participate in activities out-of-district under open enrollment?

No. The open enrollment statute provides for enrollment and attendance in school. The non-public school student eligibility statute (SB 113) allows eligibility only at the local public school.

7. What if my student is removed from the non-district school?

The transfer rule applies when the student attends the new school for one day and then changes to any other member school. It is not a “hardship exception” if the behavior of the student triggers the revocation of non-district enrollment.

8. When does Open Enrollment begin?

The statute was first applicable for the 2024-25 school year.