

Central Springs Community Schools supports parental school choice and the open enrollment law. When a parent elects to open enroll their child(ren) to another district certain legal requirements begin. Open enrollment applications must be submitted to the receiving district (the alternate district) and Central Springs prior to March 1. If the child is in kindergarten, the last date is September 1. The receiving district does the approval if these deadlines are met.

After these dates, the home district makes the approval determination based upon *Iowa Code* listed “good cause.” The most used good cause reasons are: Change in district residence by the parent due to a family move, change in marital status, foster care adoption or treatment program. If a parent alleges pervasive harassment (proven, not alleged) or severe health issues that cannot be addressed in the home district, the home (resident) district must be the first to act on the application.

Parents are responsible for transporting children open enrolled to another district. This applies to all students, including those with an IEP. According to 281-IAC 17.9(1): The parent/guardian of a pupil who has been accepted for open enrollment shall be responsible to transport the pupil without reimbursement, except as provided in subrule 17.9(2), to and from a point on a regular school bus route of the receiving district. This point shall be a designated stop on the bus route of the receiving district.

If this point—designated stop—is within the distances established by *Iowa Code* from the school designated for attendance by the receiving district, that district may, but is not required to, provide transportation for an open enrollment pupil. A receiving district may send buses into a resident district solely for the purpose of transporting an open enrollment pupil if the boards of both the sending and receiving districts agree to this arrangement. Bus routes that are outside the boundary of the receiving district that have been authorized by an area education agency board of directors, as provided by *Iowa Code* may be used to transport open enrollment pupils if boards of directors of the resident and receiving districts have both taken action to approve such an arrangement.

In both scenarios, the receiving (alternate) district sets the location for the pickup/drop point, not the resident (home) district. The home district has no control over the location of the drop point as long as it is within the agreed upon distance limits agreed to by both school boards and the AEA board.

Also notice, the boards must approve these distances by law, not individuals.

If you have need of further information the state Open Enrollment handbook and forms may be found on the Iowa Department of Education website.