

CHESAPEAKE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OPEN ENROLLMENT CAPACITY POLICY



This document outlines procedures for establishing district open enrollment capacity limits by grade level, school building and/or educational program.

Introduction

The Chesapeake Local Board of Education believes that students and parents should, under certain prescribed circumstances, have the option of participating in open enrollment. We encourage interested parties to fill out open enrollment applications in April for the start of school in the fall of that same calendar year. The policy permits the enrollment of students from any district in Ohio. Applications will be acted upon no later than June 15 by letter of acceptance or denial. Students living in the district will be enrolled, and previously open enrolled students shall receive preference over first-time applicants.

Student Limits for Open Enrollment Consideration

If the enrollment of the grade level being requested exceeds the following, admission may be denied:

Grades K-8

If grade level enrollment exceeds 125 (25 students - average classroom) regular classroom students, then no openings may be declared for that grade level. (Example: If fifth grade has 128 students enrolled with five teachers - there are no openings available for admission through open enrollment.)

Grades 9-12

In grades 9-12, open enrollment students may be limited in any course that has exceeded an average pupil/teacher ratio of 25 to 1 in the regular subject areas. (Example: If biology has three sections with 69 students enrolled for an average of 23 students per section, open enrollment students would be permitted to enroll up to the average limit. However, if the government sections have 84 students, no additional students may be enrolled through open enrollment for that class.) Vocational and other special classes will follow their state and other guidelines for enrollment limits. This section is subject to the exceptions noted in other sections

Special Education/Academic Programs

Districts are not required to institute any special education programs to serve open enrollment students. Desiring to avoid any violation of state and federal law concerning special education enrollment limits, special education program open enrollment limits have been set.

Grades K-4 may not admit special education open enrollment students where class enrollment of special education students exceeds 8 at any grade level. The student to teacher ratio in grades K-4 is 16:1 (16 students to 1 intervention specialist) and may be 12:1 or 8:1 depending on the severity of disabilities. By limiting our number to 8, when students move into our district or students are newly identified, this allows us to maintain ratio requirements and keep the number of students assigned to an intervention specialist to 16 or less.

Grades 5-8 may not admit special education open enrollment students where class enrollment of special education students exceeds 16 at any grade level or 64 total in the building (again, this allows for student identification, students to move in, and to maintain consistency as students move from one grade level to the next while maintaining the 16:1 ratio). Again, ratios may move to 12:1 or 8:1 depending on the severity of disabilities.

Grades 9-12 may not admit special education open enrollment of students where building enrollment of special education students exceeds 60. The ratio at the high school level should be no more than 24:1 (24 students to 1 intervention specialist, except in a self-contained environment and that ratio should not exceed 12:1). The high school has three intervention specialists. If the self-contained teacher has 12 students on her case load and the other two intervention teachers have 24 students each, their numbers are considered full at 60.

Grade Level	Number of Students	Condition	Ratio Requirement
K-4	8	Any Grade Level	16:1 / 12:1 / 8:1
5-8	16	Any Grade Level	16:1 / 12:1 / 8:1
9-12	60	Combined 9 th -12 th	24:1 / 12:1 / 8:1

Special Education Evaluation

If after admission an open enrolled student is evaluated for placement in a special education program, representatives of the district of residence will be invited to participate in the placement meeting. The results of such a meeting may affect student placement overall. Students newly identified will be provided services, but if numbers are such that ratios cannot be maintained, that student's open enrollment application may not be approved the following school year.

Notes: Conditions of Admission

Students, admitted tuition-free, from all Ohio districts are subject to the policies, rules, regulations and conditions contained herein:

Open enrollment shall become effective July 1, and end June 30.

Students/parents accepted into the open enrollment program shall be accepted for one school year.

If the board of education elects to renew open enrollment for the following school year, any student/parent who were accepted into and completed the current school year in the Chesapeake Local School District under the open enrollment program and who are eligible (reside in an Ohio district) and reapply pursuant to a succeeding year open enrollment program shall continue to attend Chesapeake Schools provided they meet the other eligibility requirements of this program. Students of staff members will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Any student/parent who ceases to reside in an eligible Ohio district during the school year who has been enrolled pursuant to this open enrollment policy shall forfeit his/her right to attend Chesapeake Local School District under the open enrollment program unless the parents move into another Ohio district. If the parents fail to do so, the child shall be immediately withdrawn from school or may have the option of paying tuition.

No student shall be accepted under the open enrollment program into a class, course, or program that is not housed within the Chesapeake Local School District proper (the exception would be the joint vocational school). The Chesapeake Local School District shall not be required to create or add any education programs or units to serve open enrolled students. Additionally, enrollment limits for special education and vocational units shall not be exceeded.

Applicants may be rejected if an appropriate racial balance of either the sending or the receiving school district is not maintained.

Each school district must accept all credits earned in an Ohio district toward graduation. However, graduation requirements of the Chesapeake Local School District must be met including passage of all required parts of any appropriate state or local testing.

The Chesapeake Board of Education, while participating in open enrollment, will follow the Ohio High School Athletic Association bylaws. It shall be the responsibility of the parent/student to comply with all rules and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association upon this release.

