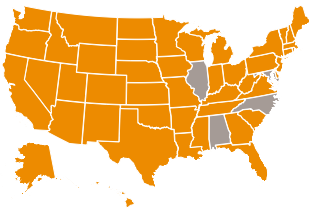


Open enrollment is one form of public school choice.

Open enrollment lets students select and transfer to the public school they would like to attend, rather than attending a school based on where they live.



46 states, plus the District of Columbia, have open enrollment policies.

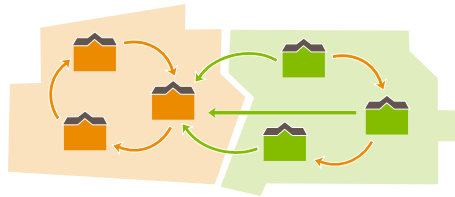


Only Alabama, Illinois, Maryland and North Carolina do not address open enrollment in state policy. See this [50-State Comparison](#) for more about open enrollment in each state.

Across states, open enrollment policies vary widely by program element.

INTRADISTRICT

35 states have policies that allow students to select and attend another school *within* their resident district.



INTERDISTRICT

42 states have policies that allow students to select and attend another school *outside* their resident district.

28 states have **mandatory** policy provisions, which mean they **require** districts to offer open enrollment in at least some circumstances.

34 states have **voluntary** policy provisions, which mean districts may **choose** whether to participate.

States may also **limit availability** of programs by:

- ✓ Stipulating which students or schools can participate.
- ✓ Limiting the number of students who can transfer.
- ✓ Allowing districts to have final approval.

States often require districts to set enrollment priorities for students ...

- Living in the school or district residence zone.
- Who are siblings of currently enrolled students.
- Whose parents are school employees or military personnel.
- Transferring from low-performing schools.
- From low-income families.
- In foster care or those with disabilities.