



SB 1685 schools; attendance boundaries; open enrollment (Boyer)

Provisions:

Enrollment Policy

- Requires governing boards to prescribe and enforce policies regarding changing or adopting attendance boundaries for enrollment preference if a school or grade reaches capacity, which include assurance that students assigned to a new attendance area may stay enrolled in their current school if it remains open.
- States that attendance boundaries may not be used to require students to attend certain schools based on the student's place of residence.
- Defines "changing or adopting attendance boundaries" as the geographic area for each school within a school district for the purposes of establishing enrollment preferences for students within the attendance area if a school or grade level reaches capacity.
- Defines "resident pupil" as a pupil whose residence is within the attendance area of a school.
- Adds the following requirements to a school district governing board's open enrollment policy:
 - Basic information needed to request enrollment as determined by the State Board of Education (SBE) consistent with pupil privacy, civil rights and transportation provisions.
 - Easily accessible from the home page on each school's web page in English and Spanish.
 - Schools will accept new pupils throughout the school year as capacity allows.
 - Students denied access due to capacity will be informed of their wait list status and will be accepted as seats become available.
 - Schools may not ask parents for information needed for pupil registration until enrollment is approved.
- Expands required school district enrollment preference to reserve capacity for the following pupils:
 - Resident pupils
 - Pupils returning from school the prior year
 - Siblings of pupils enrolled
- Expands permissions for school district enrollment preference to include the following pupils:
 - Unaccompanied youth
 - Resident transfer pupils and their siblings
- Requires schools whose number of enrollment applications exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building to select pupils through an equitable selection process with preference to siblings of those selected.
- Clarifies that a school that is operated by a school district may not limit admission based on any of the following criteria:
 - Ethnicity
 - National origin
 - Gender
 - Income level



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- Disabling condition
- Proficiency in the English language
- Athletic ability
- Includes that school that is operated by a school district may not require the submission of any of the following until enrollment has been granted and school begins the registration process for the accepted pupil:
 - Test scores
 - Placement tests
 - Individualized education programs
 - Section 504 plans
 - English language paperwork
 - Free or reduced lunch paperwork
 - Documents related to tax credit opportunities
 - Parent Teacher Association contributions
 - Extracurricular activity fees

Public Awareness and Reporting

- Directs SBE to prescribe a standard format for describing open enrollment options to ensure clarity for parents to understand enrollment options.
- Requires local education agencies (LEA) to share SBE enrollment options with each enrolled household at least one month before the first opportunity to enroll for the next year.
- Recommends SBE to provide information LEAs must share on their websites regarding school capacity and wait lists, specifying that information submitted must be updated once every eight weeks by grade level.
- Requires the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to develop a reporting process that informs the public and policymakers of the open enrollment participation rate
- Directs SBE to design a public awareness effort to distribute the following materials subject to the availability of appropriated monies:
 - Communicate to the public the ability to choose any public school statewide
 - Direct the public to resources to learn about school choice options
 - Instruct the public on how to request enrollment for pupils
- Adds that SBE can include other options in informational material including Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.
- Allows SBE to collaborate with public and private partners as well as ADE to coordinate public awareness efforts.