



Willcox Unified School District #13

April 8, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Arizona has an Open Enrollment law that gives nonresident families – Arizona residents who do not live in the school district they want their children to attend – the option of enrolling their students in any public elementary (grades K-8) or high school (grades 9-12) in the state. It is a parental choice statute that has been in effect since September 1994.

Every school district in Arizona has a local policy that defines under what conditions open enrollment students will be admitted. In our case, capacity of a school, program, class, or service determines whether we have room to accept students who do not live within our school district boundaries. It is not an exact science by any means when deciding whether or not to allow open enrollment students to come to our schools. We must preserve some extra capacity for resident students since their enrollment fluctuates somewhat throughout the year when families move in and out of the school district.

Open enrollment applications are for one year only. A student's parent/guardian must apply again the next year. Rarely do we deny applications for continuing open enrollment students. We try to admit students for each year of their school career. We recognize that educational stability in one place is important. Siblings of currently enrolled open enrollment students are given preference over a new applicant to the program. As a result, there are times when we say no to a whole family because we do not have room for all of their children in our schools, or we ask parents if not admitting all of their children are acceptable.

Ideally, open enrollment is a win-win scenario for us and for nonresident families. It is a program that makes it possible for our school district to operate more efficiently by maximizing regular class sizes and the capacity of our special programs and services.

Open enrollment limits for school year 2020-2021 are as follows:

General open enrollment students may apply for open enrollment. Application approval will be granted based on capacity of a school, program, class, or service. Past poor academic or discipline history will also be a factor.

Applications for open enrollment of special education students will only be considered if caseloads/class sizes do not exceed the following limits:

- Self-contained setting: 6 students per teacher.
- Resource or inclusion setting: 14 students per teacher.
- Speech/language Impairment: 20 students per teacher.
- Preschool special education: Out of district students are not eligible.

Thank you for your interest in our district.

Sincerely

Kevin Davis
Superintendent