

TRANSFERS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

If a transfer application is received for a child with disabilities to a school district other than the district of residence of the child pursuant to the Education Open Transfer Act, the following provisions shall apply:

1. The school district shall establish availability of the appropriate program, staff, and services prior to approval of the transfer;
2. Prior to the approval of the transfer of a student on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a joint IEP conference shall be required between the district of residence and the receiving district; and
3. Upon approval of the transfer, the receiving district shall claim the student in the average daily membership for state and for federal funding purposes and shall assume all responsibility for education of the student. For state funding purposes, the State Department of Education shall include the appropriate grade level weight and all category weights to which the pupil is assigned pursuant to the provisions of Section 18-201.1 of this title when calculating State Aid pursuant to the provisions of Section 18-200.1 of this title, regardless of whether the receiving district provides education to the student using traditional in-class means or via online instruction. When applicable, the receiving district may apply to the Oklahoma Special Education Assistance Fund for assistance in meeting any extraordinary costs incurred.

Once a student transfer application is received, the superintendent or their designee shall review the application. The review process shall include:

1. A joint IEP conference between the previous district and the receiving district to review the services the student has received at their previous district;
2. A determination as to whether the district has the availability of the appropriate program, staff and services to provide appropriate services to the student who has applied for a transfer.

If a transfer request is denied by the school district, the district shall provide notification of the denial in writing to the parent by either hand-delivery, by U.S. Mail or electronic mail. The notification shall include:

1. An explanation including but not limited to any citation of the statute, regulation, or school district policy under which the denial was made;
2. A copy of the policy adopted by the district for transfers of students with disabilities;
3. A copy of the State Board of Education rule governing appeals (after adoption); and
4. The date upon which the appeal will be due.

The parent or legal guardian of a student with disabilities or an adult student with disabilities who is age 18 or older but under the age of 22 may appeal the denial within 10 days of notification of the denial to the board of education. The board shall consider the appeal at its next regularly scheduled board meeting. If notification was hand-delivered, the appeal period shall begin the day after the notification is delivered. If notification is sent by U.S. Mail, the appeal period shall begin three (3) days after the notification is mailed. If notification is sent via electronic mail, the appeal period shall begin the day after the notification is sent. The board of education shall consider the appeal at its next regularly scheduled board meeting if notice is provided prior to the statutory deadline for posting the agenda for the meeting. The board of education shall accept an otherwise untimely appeal if a parent of a student can establish that they did not receive actual notice of the notification denying the transfer request, and the appeal was submitted within 10 days after the parent of the student received notice.

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The appeal to the board of education shall be submitted to the office of the superintendent. The appeal shall include the following:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the parent of the student and the student for whom the appeal is being taken;
2. The date the district gave notice denying the transfer request;
3. The basis for appealing the decision of the school district; and
4. The name, address and telephone number of the legal representative, if applicable.

Appeal process choice 1: During the appeal, the board will review the action of the administration and the appeal paperwork submitted by the parent of the student to make sure that the district policy was followed with regard to the denial of the transfer. The board of education will meet in an executive session to review the educational records of the student. If the policy was not followed, the board of education shall return to open session to vote to overturn the denial and the transfer will be granted. This will be a paper appeal and will include the written documentation utilized by the school district as well as a written response from the parent or legal guardian which explains why the policy was not followed.

Appeal process choice 2: During the appeal, the board of education will meet with the administration and parent or legal guardian of the student in executive session. While in executive session the administration will explain why the transfer was denied, and the members of the board will be able to ask questions of the administration. The board will then hear from the parent or legal guardian as to why the transfer should have been approved. The members of the board will be able to ask questions of the parent or legal guardian. The administration and the parent or legal guardian will be excused from the executive session while the board deliberates on the appeal. The board will return to open session and will vote to approve the denial or overturn the denial of the transfer.

If the board of education votes to deny an appeal of a request to transfer, the board of education shall instruct the superintendent to provide notification of denial in writing to the parent of the student by either hand-delivery, by U.S. Mail, or by electronic mail. The notification shall include:

1. An explanation, including the legal citation to the statute, regulation, or school district policy under which the denial was made;
2. A copy of the policy adopted by the board of education for determining the number of transfer students the district has capacity to accept;
3. A copy of the State Board of Education's prescribed form for an appeal; and
4. A copy of the rule adopted by the State Board of Education which identifies the Accreditation standard for appealing the denial of a student transfer.

If the board of education denies the appeal, the parent or legal guardian of the student with disabilities or the adult student with disabilities who is age eighteen (18) or older but under the age of twenty-two (22) may appeal the denial within ten (10) days of notification of the appeal denial to the State Board of Education. The appeal shall be considered by the State Board of Education at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

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The parent or legal guardian shall submit to the State Board of Education and to the superintendent of the district, a notice of appeal on the form prescribed by the State Board of Education. The superintendent shall immediately provide a copy of the appeal to each member of the board of education. Upon receipt of notice of an appeal, but not later than five (5) days prior to the date at which the State Board of Education is scheduled to consider the appeal the board of education may submit a written response to the appeal. Responses should not exceed five (5) pages. If not submitted by the parent, the board of education shall provide a copy of the policy adopted to determine the number of transfer students the district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school site within the district. The parent and the school district will have an opportunity to appear in person or by authorized representative or by attorney to address the State Board at the meeting.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §13-103