

APS CHOICE/OPEN ENROLLMENT FAQ

Can my child attend any school I choose?

Colorado law allows students to attend any school or participate in any program of their choice on a space available basis. Students will attend the school within their residential attendance area unless a choice/open enrollment application to attend another school is approved. Approval will be made in accordance with APS regulations and Colorado law.

Who may apply for open enrollment?

Students in grades K-12 may apply for open enrollment. Preschool parents must contact the Early Childhood Education Department, 303-364-9371, if they wish to change schools.

How do I apply for choice/open enrollment?

Parents who reside within Aurora Public Schools boundaries should complete an Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment application. Parents who reside outside of the APS boundaries should complete an Inter-District Choice/Open Enrollment application.

When can I apply for choice/open enrollment?

The open enrollment application window is from Jan. 15 to May 1 for the following school year. Applications received after May 1 will be processed in the order received.

Where do I obtain an application?

Choice/open enrollment application forms are available at every school, in centralized admissions offices, and on the APS Web site at www.aps.k12.us/family/admissions. Applications should be submitted directly to the school of choice.

How are open enrollment decisions made?

School principals make the decision in accordance with established APS regulations and Colorado law. Priority shall be given to students who reside within APS boundaries before considering requests for admission from families who reside outside of APS boundaries.

When are families notified of open enrollment decisions?

Principals will notify parents about the status of their children's application by June 15. If your student is wait-listed, your application status will be reviewed 15 days after the first day of school.

How long will my child remain on a wait list?

Intra-district choice/open enrollment wait list applications will be kept through the school year unless the parent withdraws the application. Inter-district choice/open enrollment wait list applications will be kept until September 30.

What if my child is not approved for open enrollment?

Parents may apply to another school of choice or reapply the following spring.

Once my student is open enrolled in a school, are they permanently enrolled at that school?

Applications for choice/open enrollment are valid for attendance at that school for the school year approved. In addition, applications will be valid for the grades served by that school, and parents do not need to reapply, as long as the open-enrolled student continues to meet the following criteria:

- Follows school policy for on-time arrival at and departure from school
- Maintains a 95 percent attendance rate each year
- Has no more than one out-of-school suspension each year
- Stays on track to graduate (for high school students)

After completing the elementary or middle school level, which school at the next level would an open-enrolled student attend?

A student must reapply for choice/open enrollment at the next level if they wish to attend a school other than the school in their residential attendance area.

What happens to open enrollment status if a student moves out of the district?

Students who move out of the district may complete the current school year at the school they are attending. Students will be required to attend their new home school/district thereafter, unless an Inter-District Choice/Open Enrollment approval is granted.

Are siblings of open-enrolled students given preference for enrollment at that school?

An approved choice/open enrollment for one child in a family does not necessarily guarantee the choice/open enrollment of another child in the family.

Are open-enrolled students eligible for school bus transportation?

Transportation is not available to students who voluntarily attend schools outside their residential attendance area. Students with disabilities and students attending under NCLB may be transported in accordance with applicable law.

NOTE: The district reserves the right to place a cap on accepting applications and may rescind or amend any or all approved open enrollments.

To view APS Intra-District or Inter-District Choice/Open Enrollment policies, please visit the Web site at www.aps.k12.co.us/family/admissions/options.htm .