OABCIG Community School District

Educating Every Student Every Day

OABCIG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
900 JOHN MONTGOMERY DR.
IDA GROVE, IA 51445

ANNUAL NOTICE: PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION
For the 2026-2027 School Year

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Custodians,

Under Iowa law, parents or guardians residing in an Iowa school district may apply to enroll their children in a public school district outside of their resident district. This process is known as Open Enrollment (Iowa Code § 282.18 and Iowa Administrative Code 281-17).

Please review the critical deadlines, guidelines, and recent legislative updates below regarding the open enrollment process.

1. CRITICAL APPLICATION DEADLINES

Pursuant to Iowa Senate File 2435, strict application deadlines are in place for the upcoming school year:

* **GRADES 1–12:** Applications must be completed and submitted to both your resident district and the desired receiving district on or before **MARCH 1** prior to the school year of enrollment.
* **KINDERGARTEN**: Applications for incoming Kindergarteners must be completed and submitted to both districts on or before **SEPTEMBER 1** of the enrollment year.
* **SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESCHOOL**: For incoming preschool students who receive special education services requiring Specially Designed Instruction (SDI), applications must be submitted on or before **SEPTEMBER 1** of the enrollment year.

Applications submitted after these deadlines will be denied by the school district unless the family can demonstrate “Good Cause” as defined by Iowa law (such as a change in family residence, a change in marital status/guardianship, or other legally recognized timeline waivers).

2. HOW TO APPLY

An open enrollment application must be completed for each individual child. You may download the official application from the Iowa Department of Education website or request a copy from our District Central Office. Completed and signed copies must be filed with BOTH your resident school district and the receiving school district.

3. KEY RULES AND CONSEQUENCES TO KEEP IN MIND

* NO ANNUAL RENEWAL REQUIRED: Once an open enrollment application is approved, the student may continue attending the receiving district through graduation, provided they do not move out of their resident district. If you move to a different resident district, you must file a new application.
* ***ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY: Students in grades 9–12 who transfer districts via open enrollment are generally ineligible to participate in varsity athletic competitions during their first 90 school days of enrollment (though they may practice with the team)***.
* NEW: TRUANCY AND TERMINATION (SF 2435): Under updated state law, if an open-enrolled student is absent for 20% or more of the days or hours in a grading period, they are legally defined as truant. The receiving school board has the authority to terminate the open enrollment agreement due to truancy and prohibit the student from re-enrolling in that district.
* TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE: Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting open-enrolled students. However, families whose household income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines may qualify for transportation assistance (either in the form of actual transportation or a cash stipend) from their resident district.

For further information, questions regarding open enrollment, or to obtain an application, please contact our Central Administration Office:

Julia Mogensen, Business Manager
OABCIG Community School District
jmogensen@oabcig.org 712-364-2255

Iowa Dept. of Education Guidelines: https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/educational-choice/open-enrollment