

# **Open Enrollment in Arizona**

## What's Open Enrollment?

In Arizona, Open Enrollment allows you to enroll your child in any public school in the state, regardless of where you live, as long as there's space. This includes schools in different districts, different schools within your local district, or even charter schools. Districts must provide their open enrollment policies in English and Spanish, which can also include transportation options, such as providing transportation up to 20 miles each way for students with disabilities or IEPs.

## Do I Have to Pay?

No, in Arizona, public schools cannot charge tuition for transfer students, as per <u>A.R.S. §</u> <u>15-816.01</u>, making this option completely free.

## How Can Parents Find the Best Public School for Their Child?

To find the best public school for your child, start by researching various schools to identify the best fit. You can also visit different schools to explore your options further. For example, you might consider choosing a school closer to your workplace rather than your home. Also, keep in mind that each traditional public school may have different teaching methods and atmospheres. For instance, you might prefer a school with a particular teaching approach that suits your child better.

### How Do I Open Enroll My Child?

To enroll your child in a public school, you need to apply. Once you've found suitable options, visit the school's website to locate the open enrollment application. Some schools offer online application submissions, like <u>The Scottsdale Unified School District Schools</u>, while others may require you to apply in person, such as <u>Sunny Slope High School</u>.

### What Documents Do I Need?

The required documents may vary slightly depending on the school. Generally, you'll need proof of your child's age and identity, proof of residency, current immunization records, parent/guardian identification, a withdrawal form (if previously enrolled in an Arizona school), guardianship/custody documentation if applicable, and a copy of an IEP/504 Plan if applicable.

### What Comes After the Application?

After submitting the application within the designated time frame, wait for notification from the school regarding acceptance or placement on a waiting list. If accepted, follow the enrollment instructions provided by the school, including providing any additional documentation and attending orientation sessions if required. Stay in touch with the school to ensure a smooth

transition for your child. Additionally, be mindful of deadlines and specific requirements outlined by the schools open enrollment policies.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the open enrollment process, feel free to reach out to <u>hello@loveyourschool.org</u>. We're here to help!

#### More Resources:

The School Tour: Things To Look For & Questions To Ask - KidsGuide

Top 20 Questions for a School Tour - Washington Parent

Effective Questions for Parents to Ask... When looking for a school for your child with special needs - AJE

Choosing a school: Where to start as a parent - Raising Arizona Kids

The Ultimate Guide to a Public School Transfer (Open Enrollment) - School Choice Week