



# Public School Open Enrollment

CEDARBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

A hand holding a blue marker is positioned over a drawing of a sun on a white sheet of paper. In the foreground, a clear glass jar is filled with various colored markers. The background shows a child's drawing of a sun with rays and a yellow center. The overall scene is brightly lit and focused on the drawing activity.

# Open Enrollment and Its Impact on Schools

CEDARBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**What is the full-time inter-district public school open enrollment program?**

Wisconsin's public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.



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**Can a school district refuse to participate in the open enrollment program?**

No. All school boards must adopt policies specifying criteria for approving and denying applications, must receive open enrollment applications during the application period, and must approve or deny applications in accordance with state law and the school board's policies.

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**Can a school board adopt policies to close the district to open enrollment?**

No. All school districts must accept nonresident students if space is available.

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## **How does the Cedarburg School District select the number of available seats for open enrollment?**

At every January board meeting, the District must declare the number of seats available for open enrollment and the board takes action to approve those seats. Board policy 2312.01 (Class Size Ranges) is used for the purposes of the annual establishment of Open Enrollment seats.



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## **Who may participate in public school open enrollment?**

Any student in grades kindergarten to 12 may apply to attend school in any public school district in the state. Students may apply for 4-year-old kindergarten, prekindergarten, early childhood education and school-operated day care only if the student's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the student is eligible for that program in her or his resident school district.

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**If one or more children in a family are already open enrolled, are the students' siblings automatically entitled to attend school in the nonresident district?**

No. Any siblings must apply for open enrollment in the same manner as all other students. They are entitled to preference for any spaces that exist.




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## **When can a parent apply for Open Enrollment?**

Parents/Guardians can submit open enrollment applications from **February 5 to April 30, 2024** for the 2024-2025 school year.

A hand holding a blue marker is positioned over a coloring page. In the foreground, a clear glass jar is filled with various colored markers. The background shows a coloring page with geometric patterns and yellow dots. The overall scene is brightly lit and slightly blurred, creating a soft, artistic atmosphere.

# Financial Impact on District Services

Public School Open Enrollment

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## **How much does the Cedarburg School District receive per student for open enrollment?**

Each school district in the state of Wisconsin receives a prorated amount per year for each open enrollment student they educate. The amount per student has been increasing over the last few years and is estimated to be \$8,962 per student in 2024-2025. If the student is in special education, the estimated transfer amount for 2024-2025 is \$13,814. When a student open enrolls out of a district, the district that is losing the student must pay the district educating the student the amounts listed above.



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## **What is the financial impact of open enrollment on the school district?**

Based on the number of students open enrolling in or out of a district, open enrollment can have a significant impact on a district's finances.

Cedarburg School District has more students open enrolling into the District than open enrolling out so the impact on the finances is a net gain in revenue. In 2023-24, Cedarburg School District is anticipating collecting \$1,504,233 in revenue from other districts from students who open enrolled out of their district into Cedarburg. Cedarburg is also expecting to pay \$611,338 to other districts where Cedarburg students open enrolled out of the District. The net gain from open enrollment in 2023-24 for Cedarburg is estimated to be \$892,895. This total net gain represents the average total package (salary and benefits) of about nine teachers at Cedarburg.

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## **How does open enrollment impact the tax levy?**

Based on how the General Aid for the Cedarburg School District is calculated, an increase in open enrollment revenue can lead to more money from the state and a lower tax levy. As the District receives more revenue from open enrollment, our shared costs start to go down and the amount of General Aid we receive from the state increases as a result. When our General Aid starts to increase, the amount the District needs to levy decreases since both factors make up the equation that leads to the total revenue limit for the District.

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**Questions?**

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