

2015 Legislative Session Key Facts: Changes to Interdistrict Transfers

Senate Bill 709 - Modifies Interdistrict Transfer Law - All Changes Effective June 18, 2015. Please note: it does not make any changes to Oregon's Open Enrollment Law.

- Clarifies that districts may revoke transfers for not meeting behavior requirements or attendance standards, but *not* for academic reasons.
- Clarifies that a student whose transfer has been revoked may not apply for a transfer to the same district for the next academic year. Under the old law, if a district revokes a transfer the student can immediately reapply and the district must accept the student if there is an opening available.
- Students who move over the summer are allowed to stay for the subsequent school year. This is similar to the “mid-year” move provision that currently allows students to finish out the school year and requires both districts to approve. This provision is only good for the subsequent school year.
- Changed the law so that a student does not need to get a new transfer to keep attending the same district if their family makes subsequent moves. If a student lives in district A, transfers to B and subsequently moves to C, they won't need a new transfer between B and C. The old law requires a new transfer between B and C.
- Clarifies districts can ask for sibling information and school preference on interdistrict transfer application forms.
- Allows ODE to clarify what constitutes a “hardship” transfer to give districts more latitude to deal with situations as they arise with individual student circumstances. This will be done by administrative rule and will likely take 4-6 months.
- There would be a ban on using state school fund dollars to do out of district marketing like buying ads/billboards or doing direct mailers into neighboring districts for interdistrict transfers. This is similar to the prohibition on these activities for Open Enrollment.
- Districts will be allowed to give lottery preference for interdistrict transfer slots to students who move during the school year or over the summer and were granted consent to finish out the school year or subsequent school year, respectively. Here is an example of how this works: Sally Smith's family moves in August and has missed the IDT window for the upcoming school year. The law now allows her to stay for the next school year AND if she wants to apply for a transfer when the next transfer window opens, the district may give her preference if there are more applicants than slots available.
- Allows districts to give lottery preference for interdistrict transfer slots to students who have attended charter schools in their district for at least three consecutive years, finished the highest grade at the charter school and have not enrolled and attended school in another district after completing the highest grade at the charter school.
- The law also allows districts to give the same preferences for outgoing lotteries as they are allowed to do for incoming lotteries. The list of lottery preferences now includes: siblings, mid-year move students, summer move students and specified charter school students.

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