

Administrative Regulation

Intradistrict Open Enrollment

AR 5116.1

Students

Note: The following administrative regulation addresses intradistrict transfers for victims of a violent criminal offense and students in a "persistently dangerous" school pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)(20 USC 7912) and other intradistrict open enrollment options authorized by Education Code 35160.5. For transfers required by NCLB as a result of a school being identified for program improvement, see BP/AR 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools.

Transfers for Victims of a Violent Criminal Offense

Note: NCLB (20 USC 7912) requires the state to establish and implement a policy requiring that any student who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense while on school grounds be provided an option to transfer to another district school, including a charter school; see the accompanying Board policy. 20 USC 7912 does not specify which offenses constitute a "violent criminal offense" for purposes of the victim transfer option. According to the California Department of Education (CDE), districts should consider the specific circumstances of the incident on a case-by-case basis, as specified below. The following two paragraphs are consistent with the CDE's guidance.

Note: U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) Guidance, Unsafe School Choice Option (2004), suggests that districts should notify parents/guardians of the transfer option "generally within 14 days" after the determination that the student has been a victim of a violent offense. In making this offer, the Guidance encourages the district to take into account the needs and preferences of the affected student and parents/guardians. A sample parent/guardian notification letter is available on the CDE's website.

Within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 14 days, after it has been determined that a student has been the victim of a violent criminal offense while on school grounds, the student's parents/guardians shall be offered an option to transfer their child to an eligible school identified by the Superintendent or designee. In determining whether a student has been a victim of a violent criminal offense, the Superintendent or designee shall consider the specific circumstances of the incident on a case-by-case basis and consult with local law enforcement as appropriate. Examples of violent criminal offenses include, but are not limited to, attempted murder, battery with serious bodily injury, assault with a deadly weapon, rape, sexual battery, robbery, extortion, or hate crimes.

The Superintendent or designee shall consider the needs and preferences of the affected student and his/her parent/guardian in making the offer. If the parent/guardian elects to transfer his/her

child, the transfer shall be completed as soon as practicable.

Transfers from a "Persistently Dangerous" School

***Note: 20 USC 7912 requires the state to establish and implement a policy requiring that all students attending a "persistently dangerous" school be provided an option to transfer to a safe school within the district, including a charter school; see the accompanying Board policy. Pursuant to 5 CCR 11992 and 11993, a school is designated as "persistently dangerous" based on the number of nonstudent firearms violations and the number of student expulsions pursuant to specified Education Code sections over a period of three consecutive years. ***

Note: The USDOE Guidance provides that a district with one or more schools identified as "persistently dangerous" must, in a timely manner, notify parents/guardians about the school's designation and offer the opportunity to transfer. The CDE suggests that transfers of students out of a "persistently dangerous" school generally be completed within 30 school days of notification of the school's designation. According to the CDE, "timely notification" to parents/guardians should be made within 10 school days and a timely offer of transfer within 20 school days from the time the district learns of the designation, although these two notifications may be combined. The issue of school capacity is not addressed in law nor in the USDOE Guidance, so it is generally assumed that districts may consider school capacity in identifying schools that may accept transfers.

Note: Timelines in the following two optional paragraphs may be revised as desired to reflect district practice.

Within 10 school days after receiving notification from the California Department of Education (CDE) that a school has been designated as "persistently dangerous," the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of the school's designation. Within 10 school days after this notification has been provided to parents/guardians, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of their option to transfer their child.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

Parents/guardians who desire to transfer their child out of a "persistently dangerous" school shall provide written notification to the Superintendent or designee and shall rank-order their preferences from among all schools identified by the Superintendent or designee as eligible to receive transfer students. The Superintendent or designee may establish a reasonable timeline, not to exceed seven school days, for the submission of parent/guardian requests.

The Superintendent or designee shall consider the needs and preferences of students and parents/guardians before making an assignment, but is not obligated to accept the parent/guardian's preference if the assignment is not feasible due to space constraints or other considerations. For students who accept the offer, the transfer shall generally be made within 30 school days of receiving the notice of the school's designation from the CDE. If parents/guardians decline the assigned school, the student may remain in his/her current school.

Note: The USDOE Guidance advises that the district can determine whether transfers will be temporary or permanent, but transfers must remain in effect as long as the student's original school is identified as persistently dangerous. The following optional paragraph reflects USDOE suggestions as to factors that might be considered in determining whether the transfer should be permanent and may be revised to reflect district practice.

Notifications

Notifications shall be sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year describing all current statutory attendance options and local attendance options available in the district. Such notification shall include: (Education Code 48980)

1. All options for meeting residency requirements for school attendance
(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)
(cf. 5111.12 - Residency Based on Parent/Guardian Employment)
(cf. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)
2. Program options offered within local attendance areas
3. A description of any special program options available on both an interdistrict and intradistrict basis
4. A description of the procedure for application for alternative attendance areas or programs and the appeals process available, if any, when a change of attendance is denied
5. A district application form for requesting a change of attendance
6. The explanation of attendance options under California law as provided by the CDE

(10/95 3/03) 11/08

Adopted: July 8, 2009

**GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sebastopol, California**