

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 POLICY COMMITTEE
4 RECOMMENDATION

5 FOR

6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1159

By: Tedford

7 POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

8 An Act relating to schools; amending Section 1,
9 Chapter 368, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
10 8-114), which relates to student transfers;
11 describing intra-district transfer options within
12 adjusted attendance zones; permitting intra-district
13 transfers for specialized programs in certain
14 circumstances; modifying the amount of intra-district
15 transfers per school year; providing an effective
16 date; and declaring an emergency.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 368, O.S.L.
19 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 8-114), is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 Section 8-114. A. Except as provided in subsection B of this
22 section, beginning July 1, 2024, the transfer of a student from one
23 school site to another school site within the school district where
24 the student resides shall be approved at any time in the year,
unless the grade level of the receiving school site has reached
capacity. If the capacity of a grade level is insufficient to

1 enroll all eligible students, the school district shall select
2 intra-district transfer students based on the preferences outlined
3 in paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section and then in the order
4 in which the intra-district transfer applications were received.
5 The school district board of education shall determine the capacity
6 of a school site based on its policy adopted pursuant to subsection
7 B of this section. A student may be granted a one-year intra-
8 district transfer and may automatically continue to attend the
9 school site where the student transferred each school year with the
10 approval of the school district. Students previously granted an
11 intra-district transfer may have the option to continue an intra-
12 district transfer as they transition to the next school in the
13 attendance zone pattern. At the end of each school year, a school
14 district may deny continued intra-district transfer of the student
15 for the reasons outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection B of
16 this section. Districts may also deny an intra-district transfer
17 request when the district has adjusted attendance zones for managing
18 student enrollment.

19 1. Any sibling of a student who transfers intra-district may
20 attend the school site to which the student transferred if the
21 school district policy gives preference to sibling transfers
22 regardless of capacity and the sibling of the transferred student
23 does not meet a basis for denial as outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3
24 of subsection B of this section.

1 2. The child of a school district employee who resides in the
2 school district but wishes to attend a different school site within
3 the school district where the student resides may be granted an
4 intra-district transfer if the school district policy gives
5 preference to the transfer of children of school district employees
6 and the student does not meet a basis for denial as outlined in
7 paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection B of this section.

8 3. A student who changes residence within a school district and
9 who wishes to attend the same school site may be granted an intra-
10 district transfer if the school district policy gives preference to
11 such transfers and the student does not meet a basis for denial as
12 outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection B of this section.

13 4. A student may be granted an intra-district transfer to
14 participate in specialized programs within the district if the
15 school district policy gives preference to such transfers and the
16 student does not meet a basis for denial as outlined in paragraphs 2
17 and 3 of subsection B of this section.

18 5. Any child in the custody of the Department of Human Services
19 and living in foster care who resides in the home of another student
20 who transfers intra-district may attend the school site to which the
21 student transferred.

22 Except for a child in the custody of the Department of Human
23 Services in foster care, an intra-district transfer student shall
24 not transfer more than ~~two times~~ one time per school year to other

1 school sites within the school district where the student resides,
2 provided that the student may always reenroll at any time in his or
3 her school site of residence.

4 B. Each school district board of education shall adopt a policy
5 to determine the number of intra-district transfer students the
6 school district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for
7 each school site within a school district no later than July 1,
8 2024. The policy shall be publicly posted on the school district
9 website. The policy:

10 1. Shall include an enrollment preference and reserve capacity
11 for:

- 12 a. students who reside in the school site boundary,
- 13 b. students who attended the school site the prior school
14 year,
- 15 c. siblings of students who are already enrolled at the
16 school site,
- 17 d. children of school district employees who wish to
18 attend a different school site within the school
19 district, and
- 20 e. students who change residence within a school district
21 and who wish to attend the same school site;

22 2. May include the acts and reasons outlined in Section 24-
23 101.3 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title as a basis for
24 denial of an intra-district transfer; and

1 3. May include a history of absences as a basis for denial of
2 an intra-district transfer. For the purposes of this section,
3 "history of absences" means ten or more absences in one (1) semester
4 that are not excused for the reasons provided in subsection B of
5 Section 10-105 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title or
6 due to illness.

7 C. By the first day of January, April, July, and October of
8 each year, the school district board of education shall establish
9 the number of intra-district transfer students the school district
10 has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school site
11 within the district.

12 D. After establishing the number of intra-district transfer
13 students the school district has the capacity to accept in each
14 grade level for each school site, the school district board of
15 education shall:

16 1. Publish in a prominent place on the school district website
17 the number of intra-district transfer students for each grade level
18 for each school site within the school district which the district
19 has the capacity to accept; and

20 2. Report to the State Department of Education the number of
21 intra-district transfer students for each grade level for each
22 school site within the school district which the district has the
23 capacity to accept.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

1 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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