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April 2, 2024

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 3386

By: McCall and Caldwell (Chad)
of the House

and

Treat of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; requiring approval of intra-district transfer of students at any time in the year; providing an exception if school site has reached certain capacity; providing for selection of intra-district transfer students if capacity is insufficient; directing school district boards of education to determine certain capacity; allowing intra-district transfer student to continue with certain approval; allowing denial of continued intra-district transfer for certain reasons; permitting intra-district transfer for certain children residing in a home; requiring boards of education to adopt policy for capacity in each grade level for each school site by certain date; providing for contents of policy; directing posting of policy on district website; requiring determination of intra-district capacity by the first day of certain months; directing publication on school district website; directing submission of certain report to the State Department of Education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 13-103, which relates to providing education for students with disabilities; updating statutory language; directing each school district board of education to adopt certain policy regarding transfer students with disabilities by certain date; requiring the policy and certain capacity to be published and reported to the State Department of Education; modifying process for determining whether to accept certain student transfer; establishing process to appeal denial of a transfer student with disabilities; providing for promulgation of rules;

1 requiring school district boards of education to
2 annually submit the number of certain transfer
3 requests approved and denied; requiring the State
4 Department of Education to publish certain data on
5 its website and make it available to certain agency;
6 directing the Office of Educational Quality and
7 Accountability to annually select certain percentage
8 of districts for certain audit; directing school
9 districts to comply with certain recommended changes;
10 allowing certain audit to be conducted in certain
11 conjunction; providing for codification; providing an
12 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8-114 of Title 70, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section,
18 beginning July 1, 2024, the transfer of a student from one school
19 site to another school site within the school district where the
20 student resides shall be approved at any time in the year, unless
21 the grade level of the receiving school site has reached capacity.
22 If the capacity of a grade level is insufficient to enroll all
23 eligible students, the school district shall select intra-district
24 transfer students based on the preferences outlined in paragraph 1
of subsection B of this section and then in the order in which the
intra-district transfer applications were received. The school
district board of education shall determine the capacity of a school
site based on its policy adopted pursuant to subsection B of this

1 section. A student may be granted a one-year intra-district
2 transfer and may automatically continue to attend the school site
3 where the student transferred each school year with the approval of
4 the school district. At the end of each school year, a school
5 district may deny continued intra-district transfer of the student
6 for the reasons outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection B of
7 this section. Any sibling of a student who transfers intra-district
8 may attend the school site to which the student transferred, if the
9 school district policy gives preference to sibling transfers
10 regardless of capacity, and the sibling of the transferred student
11 does not meet a basis for denial as outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3
12 of subsection B of this section. Any child in the custody of the
13 Department of Human Services and living in foster care who resides
14 in the home of another student who transfers intra-district may
15 attend the school site to which the student transferred. Except for
16 a child in the custody of the Department of Human Services in foster
17 care, an intra-district transfer student shall not transfer more
18 than two times per school year to other school sites within the
19 school district where the student resides, provided that the student
20 may always reenroll at any time in his or her school site of
21 residence.

22 B. Each school district board of education shall adopt a policy
23 to determine the number of intra-district transfer students the
24 school district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for

1 each school site within a school district no later than July 1,
2 2024. The policy shall be publicly posted on the school district
3 website. The policy:

4 1. Shall include an enrollment preference and reserve capacity
5 for:

6 a. students who reside in the school site boundary,

7 b. students who attended the school site the prior school
8 year, and

9 c. siblings of students who are already enrolled at the
10 school site;

11 2. May include the acts and reasons outlined in Section 24-
12 101.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes as a basis for denial of
13 an intra-district transfer; and

14 3. May include a history of absences as a basis for denial of
15 an intra-district transfer. For the purposes of this section,
16 "history of absences" means ten or more absences in one semester
17 that are not excused for the reasons provided in subsection B of
18 Section 10-105 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or due to
19 illness.

20 C. By the first day of January, April, July, and October of
21 each year, the school district board of education shall establish
22 the number of intra-district transfer students the school district
23 has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school site
24 within the district.

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

4 1. Publish in a prominent place on the school district website
5 the number of intra-district transfer students for each grade level
6 for each school site within the school district which the district
7 has the capacity to accept; and

8 2. Report to the State Department of Education the number of
9 intra-district transfer students for each grade level for each
10 school site within the school district which the district has the
11 capacity to accept.

12 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 13-103, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 13-103. A. Any school district in the state may
15 provide suitable facilities and employ qualified teachers and
16 therapists for ~~children~~ students with disabilities, either in
17 schools, classrooms, or in other places as the board of education of
18 the district may deem advisable. When a school district cannot
19 provide special educational facilities and qualified teachers, a
20 ~~child~~ student may be transferred pursuant to the provisions of
21 paragraph 4 of Section 13-101 of this title.

22 B. If a ~~child~~ student with disabilities is transferred to a
23 school district other than the district of residence of the ~~child~~
24

1 student pursuant to the Education Open Transfer Act the following
2 provisions shall apply:

3 1. The receiving district shall establish availability of the
4 appropriate program, staff, and services prior to approval of the
5 transfer;

6 2. Prior to the approval of the transfer of a ~~child~~ student on
7 an individualized education program (IEP), a joint IEP conference
8 shall be required between the district of residence and the
9 receiving district; and

10 3. Upon approval of the transfer, the receiving district shall
11 claim the ~~child~~ student in the average daily membership for state
12 and federal funding purposes and shall assume all responsibility for
13 education of the ~~child~~ student. For state funding purposes, the
14 State Department of Education shall include the appropriate grade
15 level weight and all category weights to which the ~~pupil~~ student is
16 assigned pursuant to the provisions of Section 18-201.1 of this
17 title when calculating State Aid pursuant to the provisions of
18 Section 18-200.1 of this title, regardless of whether the receiving
19 district provides education to the student using traditional in-
20 class means or via online instruction. When applicable, the
21 receiving district may apply to the Oklahoma Special Education
22 Assistance Fund for assistance in meeting any extraordinary costs
23 incurred.

1 C. If a request to transfer a student with disabilities to a
2 school district other than the district of residence of the student
3 pursuant to the Education Open Transfer Act is denied, the following
4 provisions shall apply:

5 1. The parent or legal guardian of a student with disabilities
6 or an adult student with disabilities who is age eighteen (18) or
7 older but under the age of twenty-two (22) may appeal the denial
8 within ten (10) days of notification of the denial to the receiving
9 school district board of education. The receiving school district
10 board of education shall consider the appeal at its next regularly
11 scheduled board meeting; and

12 2. If the receiving school district board of education denies
13 the appeal, the parent or legal guardian of the student with
14 disabilities or an adult student with disabilities who is age
15 eighteen (18) or older but under the age of twenty-two (22) may
16 appeal the denial within ten (10) days of notification of the appeal
17 denial to the State Board of Education. The parent or legal
18 guardian of the student with disabilities or the adult student with
19 disabilities shall submit to the State Board of Education and the
20 superintendent of the receiving school district a notice of appeal
21 on a form prescribed by the State Board of Education. The appeal
22 shall be considered by the State Board of Education at its next
23 regularly scheduled meeting, where the parent or legal guardian of
24 the student with disabilities or the adult student with disabilities

1 may address the Board. The State Board of Education shall
2 promulgate rules to establish the appeals process authorized by this
3 subsection which shall align with rules promulgated pursuant to
4 Section 8-101.2 of this title.

5 ~~C.~~ D. Transfers authorized by this section shall be made under
6 rules adopted by the State Board of Education. When a ~~child~~ student
7 with disabilities or pregnant ~~child~~ student is unable to attend any
8 school or class in the district of residency, the board of education
9 of the district may provide for home instruction for the ~~child~~
10 student. The State Board of Education is further authorized to
11 cooperate with any school district in the state to make it possible
12 for a ~~child~~ student with disabilities to attend the regular school
13 by making special provisions for the transportation of the ~~child~~
14 student, or for special equipment, devices, books, supplies or other
15 facilities, or for special instruction within the regular school
16 building. The provisions for services and transfers as provided for
17 in this section shall be made with consideration of the least
18 restrictive environment and IEP requirements under the Individuals
19 with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

20 ~~D.~~ E. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, a transfer
21 granted for a ~~child~~ student with disabilities pursuant to paragraph
22 4 of Section 13-101 of this title for three (3) consecutive years to
23 the same school district shall automatically be renewed each year.
24 The district in which the ~~child~~ student resides shall continue to

1 pay tuition as provided for in paragraph 4 of Section 13-101 of this
2 title.

3 F. Each school district board of education shall annually
4 submit to the State Department of Education the number of transfer
5 requests for students with disabilities approved and denied and
6 whether each denial was based on availability of programs, staff, or
7 services. The State Department of Education shall publish the data
8 on its website and make the data available to the Office of
9 Educational Quality and Accountability.

10 G. Each year, the Office of Educational Quality and
11 Accountability shall randomly select ten percent (10%) of the school
12 districts in the state and conduct an audit of each district's
13 approved and denied transfers based on the provisions of each school
14 district board of education's policy adopted pursuant to subsection
15 B of this section. If the Office finds inaccurate reporting of
16 capacity levels by a school district, the school district shall
17 comply with the changes recommended in the audit. Nothing shall
18 prohibit the Office from conducting the audit required by this
19 subsection in conjunction with the audit required by subsection G of
20 Section 8-101.2 of this title.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

22 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
24

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
4 April 2, 2024 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS
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