

Senate Bill 20-103

Common Guidelines for School District Open Enrollment

What the bill does

Creates a more equitable, family-friendly process for parents to send their children to traditional public schools via Colorado's open enrollment process.

1. Creates a common application template for districts
2. Directs the State Board to create aligned timelines for open enrollment

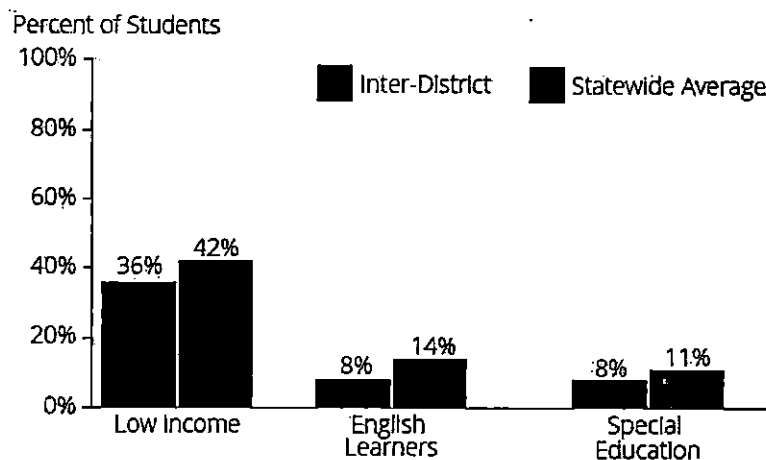
Why is the bill necessary?

Traditional public school open enrollment is the most popular form of school choice in Colorado, but **access to open enrollment is not equitable**. The key barriers to open enrollment are differing paperwork requirements for each district, and unaligned enrollment windows.

For example, a parent currently may have to fill out dozens of different forms that all seek the same information and some school enrollment windows close before another districts' window closes.

This chart shows how these barriers impact equity in open enrollment:

Figure 4: Inter-district Enrollment in Colorado by Student Subgroup, 2016-2017



By eliminating barriers for families, SB-103 will make access to open enrollment more equitable for underserved students.

What is Open Enrollment?

- First passed in 1990, Colorado's Open Enrollment policy gives families the ability to enroll their children in a traditional public school outside their home district or across neighborhood school boundaries if there is capacity in the school.
- About 150,000 Colorado students use open enrollment each year
- Open enrollment is popular in urban, suburban, and rural Colorado. Some of the highest usage rates on the eastern plains.
- By statistically significant margins, families are accessing higher performing schools because of open enrollment.
- Open enrollment cannot be used by charter schools