



RIGHT SCHOOL, RIGHT OPPORTUNITY

Summary

This bill offers true and transparent open transfers to all students in Oklahoma. The legislation modifies the Education Open Transfer Act to ensure students are able to access the Right School and Right Opportunity, to transfer to the public school where they can best learn, grow and thrive.

Why We Need It

Under our current system, students are assigned a school based on the zip code they live in. If a student's assigned school is not the best fit for them, a family must go through an archaic, confusing and discouraging transfer process, which allows families to be denied a transfer without cause. Right now, students are often denied the ability to transfer schools — not based on their needs or what school is the best fit for them — but because school districts and school administrators currently have the ability to say no for any reason.

The Solution

This legislation will give students the ability to transfer to the public school that meets their needs up until the school reaches its published capacity for each grade level. In short - if there is room, the district must take the student.

Ryan Walters,
Secretary of Education
and CEO of Every Kid
Counts Oklahoma

“Students should be able to attend the school that is best suited for them and their unique talents, not one they are merely assigned to based on their zip code. Oklahomans deserve better opportunities, options and access when it comes to the right public education for each child’s unique needs.”

Dr. Kandice Jeske,
former Deer Creek Parent

“I sought a transfer for my children and it was the best decision I could have made for them. I have seen my children come alive again in our new school and we have no plans of going back. I wish this same outcome was an option for every student.”

Why Does This Matter

Right School, Right Opportunity will pair students with a school that is the best fit for them, giving them the best opportunity to succeed. Each child is unique, and each public school offers specialized opportunities. By allowing students to learn and study in an environment that is best for them, we are building a better education for our children. The needs of our students must be the priority.

Bill Details

- A student can transfer at any time during the school year unless the incoming school is at or above capacity of a program, class, grade level or building
- The capacity of a school district shall be determined by the local school district board
- Districts will no longer be able to deny students for any reason, and instead will only be allowed to deny transfers for certain discipline issues or a history of absences
- If the number of transfer applications exceeds a district's capacity, the district will hold a public lottery selection
- The school district must post its transfer policy on its school district website and report to the State Department of Education the number of transfer students a district can accept
- If a transfer request is denied by the school district, the parent of the student may appeal the denial to the State Board of Education
- Each school district board shall annually submit to the State Board of Education and the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability the number of student transfers approved and denied for the preceding school year and the reason for the denials
- Each year, the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability shall randomly select ten percent (10%) of the school districts in the state and conduct an audit of each district's approved and denied transfers
 - If the Office finds inaccurate reporting of capacity levels by a school district, the Office shall set the capacity for the school district.