

CHAPTER 17
OPEN ENROLLMENT

281—17.1(282) Intent and purpose. It is the intent of Iowa Code section 282.18 to maximize parental choice in providing a wide range of educational opportunities which are not available for pupils because of where they live. It is the purpose of this chapter to give guidance and direction to parents/guardians, public school district administrators and boards in making quality decisions regarding school district choice for the education of pupils.

281—17.2(282) Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter the indicated terms are defined as follows:

“Alternative receiving district” means a district to which a parent/guardian petitions for the open enrollment of a pupil from a receiving district. An alternative receiving district could be the district of residence of the parents/guardians.

“Attendance center” means a public school building that contains classrooms used for instructional purposes for elementary, middle, or secondary school students.

“Court-ordered desegregation plan” means a decree, judgment, or order entered by a court in response to a case or controversy alleging the district engaged in unlawful segregation. A desegregation plan is not “court-ordered” merely because a school district seeks approval of a voluntarily developed desegregation plan.

“Department” means the department of education.

“Director” means the director of the department of education or the director’s designee.

“Open enrollment” is the procedure allowing a parent/guardian to enroll one or more pupils in a public school district other than the district of residence at no tuition cost.

“Receiving district” is the public school district in which a parent/guardian desires to have the pupil enrolled or the district accepting the application for enrollment of a pupil under the provisions of Iowa Code section 282.18.

“Resident district” is the district of residence for school purposes of the parent/guardian and the district in which an open enrollment pupil shall be counted for the purpose of generating state aid regardless of the district in which the pupil is enrolled.

“Sending district” is synonymous with the term resident district.

“Sibling” means a child residing primarily in the same household as the child for whom an open enrollment request is filed and who is related by adoption, blood or marriage to the child for whom an open enrollment request is filed. “Sibling” also includes a foster child who is placed in the same household as the child for whom an open enrollment request is filed.

[ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21]

281—17.3(282) Application process. The following procedure shall be used by parents/guardians and school districts in processing open enrollment applications.

17.3(1) Parent/guardian responsibilities. A parent/guardian shall formally notify both the district of residence and the receiving district of the request for open enrollment. The request for open enrollment shall be made on forms provided by the department of education. The parent/guardian is required to indicate on the form if the request is for a pupil requiring special education, as provided by Iowa Code chapter 256B. The forms for open enrollment application are available from each public school district and area education agency and from the department of education.

17.3(2) School district responsibilities.

a. The board of the resident district shall take no action on an open enrollment request except for a request made under rule 281—17.14(282).

b. The board of the receiving district shall act on an open enrollment request.

(1) The receiving district superintendent shall provide notification of either approval or denial of the request to the parent/guardian and to the resident district within five days of board action.

(2) As an alternative procedure, the receiving board may by policy authorize the superintendent to approve, but not deny, applications.

c. The parent/guardian may withdraw an open enrollment request any time prior to the board's action on the application.

d. The board of the receiving district shall comply with the provisions of rule 281—17.11(282) if the application for open enrollment is for a pupil requiring special education as provided by Iowa Code chapter 256B.

e. Notification to parents.

(1) By September 30 of each school year, all districts shall notify parents of the following:

1. Transportation assistance; and

2. Possible loss of athletic eligibility for open enrollment pupils.

(2) This notification may be published in a school newsletter, a newspaper of general circulation, a website, or a parent handbook provided to all patrons of the district. This information shall also be provided to any parent/guardian of a pupil who enrolls in the district during the school year.

17.3(3) Exception to process when resident district is under court-ordered desegregation. If the resident district has a court-ordered desegregation plan, the superintendent of the resident district may deny a request under this subrule unless the request is made on behalf of a student whose sibling already actively participates in open enrollment to the same receiving district to which open enrollment is sought for this student. A denial by the superintendent may be appealed to the board of the district in which the request was denied. A decision of the local board to uphold the denial may only be appealed to the district court in the county in which is located the primary business office of the district that upheld the denial of the open enrollment request.

[ARC 2746C, IAB 10/12/16, effective 11/16/16; ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21; ARC 6483C, IAB 8/24/22, effective 8/5/22; ARC 6726C, IAB 12/14/22, effective 1/18/23]

281—17.4(282) Filing after the March 1 deadline—good cause. Rescinded ARC 6726C, IAB 12/14/22, effective 1/18/23.

281—17.5(282) Filing after the March 1 deadline—harassment, failure to respond to academic needs, or serious health condition. Rescinded ARC 6726C, IAB 12/14/22, effective 1/18/23.

281—17.6(282) Restrictions to open enrollment requests. A district board may exercise the following restrictions related to open enrollment requests.

17.6(1) Enrollment loss caps. Rescinded IAB 12/8/93, effective 1/12/94.

17.6(2) Court-ordered desegregation plans. In districts with court-ordered desegregation plans where there is a requirement to maintain minority and nonminority student ratios according to the plan, the superintendent of the district may deny a request for open enrollment if it is found that the enrollment or release of a pupil will adversely affect the district's court-ordered desegregation plan. Open enrollment requests that would facilitate the court-ordered desegregation plan shall be given priority over other open enrollment requests received by the district. A parent/guardian whose request for open enrollment is denied by the superintendent of the district on the basis of its adverse effect on the district's court-ordered desegregation plan may appeal that decision to the district board.

17.6(3) Policy on insufficient classroom space. No receiving district shall be required to accept an open enrollment request if it has insufficient classroom space to accommodate the pupil(s). Each district board shall adopt a policy which defines the term "insufficient classroom space" for that district. This policy shall establish a basis for the district to make determinations on the acceptance or denial, as a receiving district, of an open enrollment request. This policy may include, but shall not be limited to, one or more of the following: nature of the educational program, grade level, available instructional staff, instructional method, physical space, pupil-teacher ratio, equipment and materials, facilities either being planned or under construction, facilities planned to be closed, finances available, sharing agreement in force or planned, bargaining agreement in force, special education class size or caseload established pursuant to rule 281—41.408(256B,273,34CFR300), or board-adopted district educational goals and objectives. This policy shall be reviewed annually by the district board.

17.6(4) Designation of attendance center. The right of a parent/guardian to request open enrollment is to a district other than the district of residence, not to an attendance center within the nonresident

district. In accepting an open enrollment pupil, the receiving district board has the same authority it has in regard to its resident pupils as provided by Iowa Code section 279.11, to “determine the particular school which each child shall attend.” In the application process, however, the parent or guardian may request an attendance center of preference.

[ARC 5651C, IAB 6/2/21, effective 7/7/21; ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21]

281—17.7(282) Open enrollment for kindergarten or certain prekindergarten programs. A parent/guardian of a kindergarten pupil or a parent/guardian of a prekindergarten student enrolled in a special education program and eligible to be included in the resident school district’s basic enrollment under Iowa Code section 257.6(1) “a”(1) may request to enroll the pupil or student in a district other than the district of residence. In considering an application under this rule, the resident and the receiving district are not precluded from administering board-adopted policies related to insufficient classroom space, the requirements of rule 281—17.11(282), or the requirements of a desegregation order.

As an alternative procedure, the receiving board may by policy authorize the superintendent to approve, but not deny, applications filed under this rule.

[ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21; ARC 6483C, IAB 8/24/22, effective 8/5/22; ARC 6726C, IAB 12/14/22, effective 1/18/23]

281—17.8(282) Requirements applicable to parents/guardians and students.

17.8(1) Expelled or suspended students. A pupil who has been suspended or expelled by action of the administration or board of the resident district shall not be permitted to enroll if an open enrollment request is filed until the pupil is reinstated for school attendance in the resident district. Once reinstated, the application for open enrollment shall be considered in the same manner as any other open enrollment request. If a pupil for whom an open enrollment request has been filed is subsequently expelled by action of the resident district board, the pupil may be denied enrollment by the receiving district board until the pupil is reinstated for school attendance by the resident district. The provisions of this subrule shall also apply to a pupil who has been suspended or expelled in a receiving district and is requesting open enrollment to an alternative receiving district or is seeking to return to the resident district as outlined in subrule 17.8(4).

17.8(2) Restrictions on participation in interscholastic athletic contests and competitions. Subject to rule 281—17.15(282), a pupil who changes school districts under open enrollment in any of the grades 9 through 12 shall not be eligible to participate in varsity interscholastic athletic contests and competitions during the first 90 school days of enrollment. This restriction also shall apply to enrollments resulting from an approved petition filed by a parent/guardian to open enroll to an alternative receiving district and when the pupil returns to the district of residence using the process outlined in subrule 17.8(4). This 90-school-day restriction does not prohibit the pupil from practicing with an athletic team during the 90 school days of ineligibility. If a pupil is declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic contests and athletic competitions in the pupil’s district of residence due to the pupil’s academic performance, upon participating in open enrollment, in addition to any other period of ineligibility under this rule, the pupil shall be ineligible in the receiving district for the remaining period of ineligibility declared by the district of residence. This 90-school-day restriction is not applicable to a pupil who:

a. Participates in an athletic activity in the receiving district that is not available in the district of residence.

b. Participates in an athletic activity for which the resident district and the receiving district have a “cooperative student participation agreement” in place as provided by rule 281—36.20(280).

c. Has paid tuition for one or more years to the receiving school district prior to making application and being approved for open enrollment.

d. Has attended the receiving district for one or more years, prior to making application and being approved for open enrollment, under a sharing or mutual agreement between the resident district and the receiving district.

e. Has been participating in open enrollment and whose parents/guardians move out of their district of residence but exercise the option of maintaining the open enrollment agreement as provided in subrule 17.8(6) except that the period of 90 school days of ineligibility shall apply to a pupil who

open enrolls to another school district. If the pupil has established athletic eligibility under open enrollment, it is continued despite the parent's or guardian's change in residence.

f. Obtains open enrollment as provided in subrule 17.8(7) except that the period of 90 school days of ineligibility shall apply to a pupil who open enrolls to another school district.

g. Obtains open enrollment due to the dissolution and merger of the former district of residence under Iowa Code subsection 256.11(12).

h. Obtains open enrollment due to the pupil's district of residence entering into a whole-grade sharing agreement on or after July 1, 1990, including the grade in which the pupil would be enrolled at the start of the whole-grade sharing agreement.

i. Participates in open enrollment and the parent/guardian is an active member of the armed forces and resides in permanent housing on government property provided by a branch of the armed services.

j. Open enrolls from a district of residence that has determined that the pupil was previously subject to a founded incident of harassment or bullying as defined in Iowa Code section 280.28 while attending school in the district of residence.

k. Participates in open enrollment because of circumstances that meet the definition of "good cause." For purposes of this paragraph, "good cause" means a change in a child's residence due to a change in family residence; a change in a child's residence from the residence of one parent or guardian to the residence of a different parent or guardian; a change in the state in which the family residence is located; a change in a child's parents' marital status; a guardianship or custody proceeding; placement in foster care; adoption; participation in a foreign exchange program; participation in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program; a change in the status of a child's resident district such as removal of accreditation by the state board, surrender of accreditation, or permanent closure of a nonpublic school; revocation of a charter school contract as provided in Iowa Code section 256E.10 or 256F.8; the failure of negotiations for a whole grade sharing agreement, reorganization plan, or dissolution agreement; the rejection of a current whole grade sharing agreement or reorganization plan; or any other reason specified in Iowa Code section 282.18(11) "a"(9).

l. Resides in a district in which the board of directors or superintendent issues or implements a decision that results in the discontinuance or suspension of varsity interscholastic sports activities in the district.

m. Participates in open enrollment and the board of directors of the district of residence and the board of directors of the receiving district both agree to waive the ineligibility period.

n. Open enrolls for the school year beginning July 1, 2021, if the pupil's district of residence had a voluntary diversity plan in effect on January 1, 2021, and applicable to the school year beginning July 1, 2021.

17.8(3) *Term of enrollment.* Rescinded IAB 10/9/96, effective 11/13/96.

17.8(4) *Petition for attendance in an alternative receiving district.* Once the pupil of a parent/guardian has been accepted for open enrollment, attendance in an alternative receiving district under open enrollment can be initiated by filing a petition for change with the receiving district. The timelines and notification requirements for such a request shall be the same as outlined in subrule 17.3(2). If the request is approved, the alternative district shall send notice of this action to the parent/guardian, to the original receiving district, and to the resident district of the pupil. Petitions for change shall be for not less than one year.

A pupil in good standing may return to the district of residence at any time following written notice from the parent/guardian to both the resident district and the receiving district.

17.8(5) *Renewal of an open enrollment agreement.* An open enrollment agreement shall remain in place unless canceled by the parent/guardian or terminated as outlined in the provisions of subrule 17.8(10).

17.8(6) *Change in residence when participating in open enrollment.* If the parent/guardian of a pupil who is participating in open enrollment changes the school district of residence during the term of the agreement, the parent/guardian shall have the option to leave the pupil in the receiving district under open enrollment or to enroll the pupil in the new district of residence, thus terminating the open enrollment agreement. If the choice is to leave the pupil under open enrollment or to open enroll to another school

district, the district of residence, as determined on the date specified in Iowa Code section 257.6(1), shall be responsible for payment of the cost per pupil plus any applicable weightings or special education costs for the balance of the school year. The new district of residence shall be responsible for these payments during succeeding years of the agreement.

If the pupil is to remain under open enrollment or to open enroll to another school district, the parent/guardian shall write a letter, delivered by mail or by hand, to notify the original resident district, the new resident district, and the receiving district of this decision.

Requests under this rule shall not be denied. If the request is for a high school pupil, the pupil shall not be subject to the initial 90-school-day ineligibility period of subrule 17.8(2).

17.8(7) *Change in residence when not participating in open enrollment.* If a parent/guardian moves out of the school district of residence, and the pupil is not currently under open enrollment, the parent/guardian has the option for the pupil to remain in the original district of residence as an open enrollment pupil with no interruption in the education program. The parent/guardian exercising this option shall file an open enrollment request form with the new district of residence for processing and record purposes. Requests under this subrule shall not be denied. If the request is for a high school pupil, the pupil shall not be subject to the initial 90-school-day ineligibility period of subrule 17.8(2). If the move is on or after the date specified in Iowa Code section 257.6(1), the new district of residence is not required to pay per-pupil costs or applicable weighting or special education costs to the receiving district until the first full year of the open enrollment.

a. This subrule applies in the following circumstances: a change in family residence, a change in a child's residence from the residence of one parent or guardian to the residence of a different parent or guardian, a change in the state in which the family residence is located, a change in a child's parents' marital status, a guardianship proceeding, placement in foster care, adoption, participation in a foreign exchange program, or participation in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program.

b. This rule applies to the following children:

- (1) A child who is enrolled in any grade from kindergarten through grade 12.
- (2) A prekindergarten student who is enrolled in a special education program at the time of the request and is not currently using any provision of open enrollment.

17.8(8) *Pupil governance.* An open enrollment pupil, and where applicable the pupil's parent/guardian, shall be governed by the rules and policies established by the board of directors of the receiving district. Any complaint or appeal by the parent/guardian concerning the educational system, its process, or administration in the receiving district shall be initially directed to the board of directors of that district in compliance with the policy of that district.

17.8(9) *Appeal procedure.* Rescinded IAB 8/24/22, effective 8/5/22.

17.8(10) *Open enrollment termination.* Open enrollment ends when:

a. The pupil graduates, moves into the receiving district, moves into a third district and does not elect to continue attending in the receiving district, moves out of state, elects to attend a nonpublic school instead of the receiving district, or any other circumstance not excepted below that results in the pupil no longer attending the receiving district.

EXCEPTIONS: This rule shall not apply if the pupil is placed temporarily in foster care, a juvenile detention center, mental health or substance abuse treatment facility, or other similar placement. In such cases, the open enrollment status will automatically be reinstated when the pupil returns.

b. The pupil drops out of school. In this instance, if the pupil desires to return to the resident district during the term of the original open enrollment, notice must be given as outlined in the provisions of subrule 17.8(4).

[ARC 2746C, IAB 10/12/16, effective 11/16/16; ARC 4296C, IAB 2/13/19, effective 3/20/19; ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21; ARC 6483C, IAB 8/24/22, effective 8/5/22; ARC 6726C, IAB 12/14/22, effective 1/18/23]

281—17.9(282) Transportation.

17.9(1) *Parent responsibilities.* The parent/guardian of a pupil who has been accepted for open enrollment shall be responsible to transport the pupil without reimbursement, except as provided in subrule 17.9(2), to and from a point on a regular school bus route of the receiving district. This point

shall be a designated stop on the bus route of the receiving district. If this point—designated stop— is within the distances established by Iowa Code section 285.1 from the school designated for attendance by the receiving district, that district may, but is not required to, provide transportation for an open enrollment pupil. A receiving district may send buses into a resident district solely for the purpose of transporting an open enrollment pupil if the boards of both the sending and receiving districts agree to this arrangement. Bus routes that are outside the boundary of the receiving district that have been authorized by an area education agency board of directors, as provided by Iowa Code subsection 285.9(3), may be used to transport open enrollment pupils if boards of directors of the resident and receiving districts have both taken action to approve such an arrangement. Bus routes that have been established by the receiving district for the purpose of transporting nonpublic school or special education pupils that operate in the resident district of an open enrollment pupil shall not be utilized for the transportation of such pupil for the portion of the route that is within the resident district unless the boards of directors of the resident and receiving districts have both taken action to approve such an arrangement. Bus routes transporting pupils for the purpose of whole-grade sharing shall not be used to transport open enrollment pupils for the portion of the route that is within the resident district unless the boards of directors of the resident and receiving districts have both taken action to approve such an arrangement.

17.9(2) *Qualifications and provisions for transportation assistance.* Open enrollment pupils that meet the economic eligibility requirements established by the department of education shall receive transportation assistance from their resident district under the following conditions. The resident district is not required to provide any transportation assistance for a pupil involved in open enrollment with a district that is not contiguous with the pupil's resident district. The resident district shall provide transportation for the pupil to a point that is a designated stop on a regular bus route of a contiguous receiving district, or as an alternative, the resident district shall pay the parent/guardian for providing this transportation. In either situation the resident district is not obligated to expend more than the average cost per pupil transported amount established for that district for the previous school year. If the resident district provides the transportation, it shall determine that it is able to perform this function at a cost not in excess of the average cost per pupil transported for the resident district as established the previous year. It shall not assess any additional cost to the parent/guardian for providing transportation. If the district chooses to reimburse the parent/guardian for providing transportation, to determine the amount to be reimbursed, the district shall use the provisions of Iowa Code subsection 285.1(3). This reimbursement shall not exceed the average cost per pupil transported for the resident district as established the previous year. The resident district may withhold from the amount it is required to pay to a receiving district for an open enrollment pupil the actual amount or the average cost per pupil transported amount it pays for transportation assistance, whichever is the lesser amount.

17.9(3) *Economic eligibility requirements for transportation.* A parent/guardian shall be eligible for transportation assistance from the resident district if the household income of the parent/guardian is 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Since the federal poverty income guidelines are adjusted each year, the department of education shall provide revised eligibility guidelines to school districts each year.

[ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21]

281—17.10(282) Method of finance. Open enrollment options shall be made available for pupils at no instructional cost to their parents/guardians. Open enrollment pupils shall be considered enrolled resident pupils in the resident district and shall be included in the certified enrollment count of that district for the purposes of generating school foundation aid.

17.10(1) *Full-time pupils.* The resident district shall pay each year to the receiving district an amount equal to the sum of the state cost per pupil for the previous year; plus any moneys received pursuant to Iowa Code section 282.18(7) "b"(1). If the pupil participating in open enrollment is also an eligible pupil under Iowa Code section 261E.6 (postsecondary enrollment options program), the receiving district shall

pay the tuition reimbursement amount to an eligible postsecondary institution as provided in Iowa Code section 261E.7.

17.10(2) *Dual enrolled pupils.* For pupils who receive competent private instruction and are dual enrolled, the resident district shall pay each year to the receiving district an amount equal to .1 times the state cost per pupil for the previous year plus any moneys received for the pupil as a result of English learner weighting provided by Iowa Code section 280.4. However, a pupil dual enrolled in grades nine through twelve shall be counted by the receiving district in the same manner as a shared-time pupil under Iowa Code section 257.6(1)“c.”

17.10(3) *Home school assistance program pupils.* For pupils who receive competent private instruction and are registered for a home school assistance program, the resident district shall pay each year to the receiving district an amount equal to .3 times the state cost per pupil under Iowa Code chapter 257 for the previous year plus any moneys received for the pupil as a result of English learner weighting provided by Iowa Code section 280.4.

17.10(4) *Transportation assistance.* The resident district may deduct any transportation assistance funds for which the pupil is eligible as provided by subrule 17.9(2).

17.10(5) *Method of payment.* These moneys shall be paid to the receiving district by the first resident district according to the timeline in Iowa Code section 282.20(3) (on or before February 15 and July 15 of each year). Payments shall be made to the receiving district in a timely manner. The district cost per pupil for nonspecial education students shall be the cost calculated each year for the school year preceding the school year for which the open enrollment takes place. Costs for special education students shall be as outlined in rule 281—17.11(282).

17.10(6) *Partial-year situations.* If a pupil participating in open enrollment attends school in the receiving district for any reason for less than a full school year, payment from the district of residence to the receiving district shall be prorated on a per diem basis.

17.10(7) *Late changes of open enrollment.* Rescinded IAB 12/14/22, effective 1/18/23.

17.10(8) *Supplemental weighting.* A student under open enrollment is eligible to be counted for supplementary weighting pursuant to 281—subrule 97.2(5) for qualifying concurrent enrollment classes in which the student is enrolled, including concurrent enrollment classes provided via the ICN, or supplementary weighting for project lead the way (PLTW) enrollment through sharing with a community college pursuant to 281—subrule 97.2(6). An open enrolled student who is under competent private instruction (CPI) shall be weighted in the student’s receiving district, and no tuition shall be billed to the resident district. An open enrolled student who is not under CPI shall be weighted in the resident district, and the funding shall be sent to the receiving district in addition to open enrollment tuition.

a. If the open enrolled student is present in the resident district on October 1 of the school year, the resident district shall count the student, excluding a student under CPI, for supplementary weighting.

b. The concurrent enrollment course must qualify for supplementary weighting in the receiving district pursuant to 281—subrule 97.2(5), and the PLTW course must qualify for supplementary weighting in the receiving district pursuant to 281—subrule 97.2(6).

c. The resident district shall forward the weighting generated for the concurrent or PLTW enrollment for that student using the district cost per pupil of the school year. The amount generated is calculated as the supplementary weighting full-time-equivalency for that one student for each qualified concurrent or PLTW enrollment course multiplied by the current school year’s district cost per pupil in the resident district.

d. The receiving district shall pay the community college the tuition negotiated for the course. The tuition negotiated may cost the receiving district a different amount than that received from the resident district. No additional amount may be charged to the resident district, the student, or the parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

e. If the student was not present in the resident district on October 1 of the school year and is a late transfer, the receiving district bears all the tuition cost and shall not bill the resident district in the first year pursuant to subrule 17.10(7).

17.10(9) *Open enrollment pursuant to rule 281—17.15(282).* If a pupil participates in cocurricular or extracurricular activities in accordance with subrule 17.15(2), the district of residence may deduct up to \$200 per activity, for up to two activities, from the amount calculated in this rule. For a cocurricular activity, one semester shall equal one activity. Extracurricular activities for which such a resident district may charge up to \$200 per activity for up to two activities under this subrule include interscholastic athletics, music, drama, and any other activity with a general fund expenditure exceeding \$5,000 annually. A pupil may participate in additional extracurricular activities at the discretion of the resident district. The school district of residence may charge the pupil a fee for participation in such cocurricular or extracurricular activities equivalent to the fee charged to and paid in the same manner by other resident pupils.

[ARC 9261B, IAB 12/15/10, effective 1/19/11; ARC 0521C, IAB 12/12/12, effective 1/16/13; ARC 2746C, IAB 10/12/16, effective 11/16/16; ARC 3181C, IAB 7/5/17, effective 8/9/17; ARC 4296C, IAB 2/13/19, effective 3/20/19; ARC 6483C, IAB 8/24/22, effective 8/5/22; ARC 6726C, IAB 12/14/22, effective 1/18/23]

281—17.11(282) *Special education students.* If a parent/guardian requests open enrollment for a pupil requiring special education, as provided by Iowa Code chapter 256B and 281—Chapter 41, this request shall receive consideration under the following conditions.

17.11(1) *Appropriateness of program.* The request shall be granted only if the receiving district is able to provide within that district the appropriate special education program for that student in accordance with Iowa rules of special education, 281—Chapter 41. This determination shall be made by the receiving district in consultation with the resident district and the appropriate area education agency(ies) before approval of the application. In a situation where the appropriateness of the program is in question, the pupil shall remain enrolled in the program of the resident district until a final determination is made, unless all parties otherwise agree, as provided in 281—Chapter 41. If the appropriateness of the special education program in the receiving district is at issue, the final determination of the appropriateness of a special education instructional program shall be the responsibility of the child’s individualized education program team, which shall include a representative from the resident district that has the authority to commit district resources, and which decision is subject to the parent’s procedural safeguards under 281—Chapter 41.

17.11(2) *Class size and caseload.* The provisions of subrule 17.6(3) apply to requests for open enrollment for a child with a disability. The following conditions apply:

a. The enrollment of the child in the receiving district’s program would not cause the size of the class or caseload in that special education instructional program in the receiving district to exceed the maximum class size or caseload set forth in subrule 17.6(3).

b. If the child would be assigned to a general education class, there is sufficient classroom space, as established in subrule 17.6(3), for the general education class to which the child would be assigned.

17.11(3) *Transportation.* District transportation requirements, parent/guardian responsibilities and, where applicable, financial assistance for an open enrollment special education pupil shall be as provided by rules 281—17.9(282) and 281—41.412(256B,34CFR300).

17.11(4) *Finance.* The district of residence shall pay to the receiving district on the schedule set forth in subrule 17.10(5) the actual costs incurred by the receiving district in providing the appropriate special education program. These costs shall be based on the current year expenditures with needed adjustments made in the final payment. The responsibility for ensuring that an appropriate program is maintained for an open enrollment special education pupil shall rest with the resident district. The receiving district and the receiving area education agency director shall provide, at least on an annual basis, evaluation reports and information to the resident district on each special education open enrollment pupil. The receiving district shall provide notice to the resident district of all staffings scheduled for each open enrollment pupil. For an open enrolled special education pupil where the receiving district is located in an area education agency other than the area education agency within which the resident district is located, the resident district and the receiving district are required to forward a copy of any approved open enrollment request to the director of special education of their respective area education agencies. Any moneys received by the area education agency of the resident district for an approved open enrollment special education pupil shall be forwarded to the receiving district’s area education agency. For children

requiring special education, the receiving district shall complete and provide to the district of residence the documentation necessary to seek Medicaid reimbursement for eligible services.

[ARC 3181C, IAB 7/5/17, effective 8/9/17; ARC 5651C, IAB 6/2/21, effective 7/7/21; ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21]

281—17.12(282) Laboratory school provisions. Rescinded ARC 2746C, IAB 10/12/16, effective 11/16/16.

281—17.13(282) Applicability. Rescinded ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21.

281—17.14(282) Court-ordered desegregation plans.

17.14(1) Applicability. These rules govern only the components of a court-ordered desegregation plan as the plan affects open enrollments.

17.14(2) Nature of court-ordered desegregation plan. The language of the court order shall be binding on a district's implementation of open enrollment. The district shall notify the department of any court-ordered desegregation plan and any court-ordered modifications to that plan.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 282.18 as amended by 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 228.

[ARC 5869C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21]

281—17.15(282) Open enrollment and online coursework.

17.15(1) General. A school district may provide courses developed by private providers and delivered primarily over the Internet to pupils who are participating in open enrollment under Iowa Code section 282.18. However, if a student's participation in open enrollment to receive educational instruction and course content delivered primarily over the Internet results in the termination of enrollment in the receiving district, the receiving district shall, within 30 days of the termination, notify the district of residence of the termination and the date of the termination.

17.15(2) Participation in activities in resident district. A pupil participating in open enrollment for purposes of receiving educational instruction and course content primarily over the Internet in accordance with Iowa Code section 256.7(32) may participate in any cocurricular or extracurricular activities offered to children in the pupil's grade or group and sponsored by the district of residence under the same conditions and requirements as the pupils enrolled in the district of residence. The pupil may participate in not more than two cocurricular or extracurricular activities during a school year unless the resident district approves the student's participation in additional activities. The student shall comply with the eligibility, conduct, and other requirements relating to the activity that are established by the district of residence for any student who applies to participate or who is participating in the activity.

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These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 282.18.

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