

281—17.4 (282) Filing after the March 1 deadline—good cause. A parent/guardian may apply for open enrollment after the filing deadline of March 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which open enrollment is requested and before the date specified in Iowa Code section 257.6, subsection 1, of that calendar year if good cause exists for the failure to meet the deadline. Good cause is a change in the status of the pupil's residence or a change in the status of the pupil's resident district taking place after March 1, or the closing or loss of accreditation of a nonpublic school of attendance after March 1 resulting in the desire of the parent/guardian to obtain open enrollment for the following school year. If good cause can be established, the parent/guardian shall be permitted to apply for open enrollment in the same manner as if the deadline had been met pursuant to rule 17.3(282).

Consideration of an open enrollment request filed under the provision of good cause does not preclude the authority, as appropriate, for the resident or receiving district to administer board policy related to insufficient classroom space or the requirements of a desegregation plan or order in acting to approve or deny the request. (See subrules 17.6(2) and 17.6(3).)

17.4(1) Good cause related to change in the pupil's residence shall include:

a. A change in the family residence due to the family's moving from the district of residence anytime after March 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which open enrollment is requested.

b. A change in the state of residence allowing a parent/guardian moving into an Iowa school district from out of state to obtain open enrollment to a different district from their new district of residence.

c. A change in the marital status of the pupil's parents.

d. A guardianship or custody proceeding.

e. Placement of the child in foster care.

f. Adoption.

g. Participation in a foreign exchange program.

h. Participation in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program.

17.4(2) Good cause related to change in status of the pupil's resident district or nonpublic school of attendance shall include:

a. Reorganization action.

(1) Failure of the area education board to vote in favor of a reorganization proposal,

(2) Failure of the area education board to act on objections to exclude territory from a reorganization proposal,

(3) Failure of a reorganization election,

(4) Rescinded IAB 3/8/00, effective 4/12/00.

b. Dissolution action.

(1) Failure of a dissolution commission to make a recommendation to the board of directors,

(2) Failure of the board to take positive action on objections filed by residents of the district to a dissolution proposal,

(3) Failure of contiguous districts to accept a dissolution proposal,

(4) Failure of an election on a dissolution proposal.

c. Whole grade sharing action.

(1) Failure of the board to pursue negotiations for a whole grade sharing proposal for which it has given public notice by board action of its intent to pursue,

(2) Failure of the board to approve a request by a parent/guardian to send an affected pupil to a contiguous district rather than to the district party to the agreement,

(3) Failure of the board to extend or renew a whole grade sharing agreement,

(4) Unilateral rejection by one board of a whole grade sharing agreement prior to expiration of the term of the agreement.

d. Loss of accreditation.

- (1) Removal of accreditation by the state board after March 1.
- (2) Surrender of accreditation after March 1.
- (3) Permanent closure of a nonpublic school after March 1.

e. Rescinded IAB 8/21/02, effective 9/25/02.

On open enrollment requests for good cause related to a change in status of the pupil's school district of residence, action by a parent/guardian must be taken to file notification within 45 days of the last board action or within 30 days of the certification of an election, whichever circumstance is applicable.

17.4(3) Good cause shall not include:

a. Actions of a board of education in the designation of attendance centers within a school corporation and in the assignment of pupils to such centers as provided by Iowa Code section 279.11.

b. Actions of a board of education in making its own rules of government for the internal organization and operation of the school corporation as provided by Iowa Code section 279.8.

17.4(4) Rescinded IAB 8/21/02, effective 9/25/02.

17.4(5) Timelines for board action on applications filed after March 1 for good cause. The board of the receiving district shall act on the request within 30 days of its receipt. The same timelines for approval, forwarding, and notification shall apply.

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.

17.4(6) If the resident district believes that the board of the receiving district approved a late-filed open enrollment request that does not meet the definition of "good cause" under Iowa Code section 282.18(4) "b," the resident district may appeal to the director.

a. Upon affirmative vote of a majority of its board to do so, the resident district shall file a written appeal to the director within 30 days of receipt by the resident district of notification by the board of the receiving district of the approval by the receiving district of a late-filed open enrollment request. The written appeal shall state the name and grade level of the affected student, the name of the receiving district, the date of approval by the board of the receiving district, the date the resident district was notified of the approval, and a brief statement explaining why the resident district board believes there is no good cause for the request to have been filed and approved after March 1. The appeal shall be signed by the president of the board of the resident district and shall have attached to it a copy of the disputed open enrollment request and the minutes of the board meeting at which the resident district board voted to appeal. An appeal is timely filed if it is postmarked or delivered personally or via facsimile transmission to the director within the 30-day time period.

b. The director shall, upon receipt of an appeal, first attempt to mediate the dispute. If mediation is unsuccessful, the director shall schedule a telephonic hearing for the purpose of hearing testimony from both boards.

c. If a hearing is necessary, the boards may stipulate to any or all facts to be considered by the director. At the sole discretion of the director, an in-person hearing may be scheduled. The director shall issue a written decision within ten days of the hearing, upholding or reversing the decision of the board of the receiving district.

d. Within five days of the issuance of the decision of the director, the aggrieved board may appeal the decision to the state board of education under the procedures in Iowa Code chapter 290.