

Senate File 2116 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2116

BY EVANS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to open enrollment, including by modifying
2 provisions related to the open enrollment of pupils who
3 are truant or chronically absent and children receiving
4 educational instruction and course content delivered primarily
5 over the internet, and including applicability provisions.
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 282.18, subsection 13, Code 2026, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 13. a. If a pupil, for whom a request to transfer has been
4 filed with a district, has been suspended or expelled in the
5 district, the pupil shall not be permitted to transfer until the
6 pupil has been reinstated in the sending district. Once the
7 pupil has been reinstated, however, the pupil shall be permitted
8 to transfer in the same manner as if the pupil had not been
9 suspended or expelled by the sending district. If a pupil,
10 for whom a request to transfer has been filed with a district,
11 is expelled in the district, the pupil shall be permitted to
12 transfer to a receiving district under this section if the pupil
13 applies for and is reinstated in the sending district. However,
14 if the pupil applies for reinstatement but is not reinstated in
15 the sending district, the receiving district may deny the request
16 to transfer. The decision of the receiving district is not
17 subject to appeal.

18 b. (1) If a pupil, for whom a request to transfer has
19 been filed with a district, is chronically absent as defined
20 in section 299.12, participating in a school engagement meeting
21 under section 299.12, subsection 3, or currently a party to an
22 absenteeism prevention plan entered into under section 299.12,
23 subsection 3, the pupil shall not be permitted to transfer
24 until the pupil is no longer chronically absent, no longer
25 participating in the school engagement meeting, or no longer a
26 party to the absenteeism prevention plan. Once the pupil is no
27 longer chronically absent, no longer participating in the school
28 engagement meeting, and no longer a party to an absenteeism
29 prevention plan, the pupil shall be permitted to transfer in the
30 same manner as if the pupil had not been chronically absent,
31 participating in a school engagement meeting, or a party to an
32 absenteeism prevention plan.

33 (2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), a pupil who is
34 chronically absent as defined in section 299.12, participating in
35 a school engagement meeting under section 299.12, subsection 3,

1 or currently a party to an absenteeism prevention plan entered
2 into under section 299.12, subsection 3, and for whom a request
3 to transfer has been filed with a district, may be permitted
4 to transfer if the receiving district approves the request to
5 transfer.

6 Sec. 2. Section 282.18, subsection 17, Code 2026, is amended
7 by striking the subsection.

8 Sec. 3. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to applications and
9 notifications related to open enrollment submitted under section
10 282.18 on or after the effective date of this Act.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill relates to open enrollment, including by modifying
15 provisions related to the open enrollment of pupils who are
16 truant or chronically absent and children receiving educational
17 instruction and course content delivered primarily over the
18 internet.

19 The bill provides that if a pupil, for whom a request to
20 open enroll has been filed with a district, is chronically
21 absent as defined in Code section 299.12 (failure to attend),
22 participating in a school engagement meeting under Code section
23 299.12, or currently a party to an absenteeism prevention plan
24 entered into under Code section 299.12, the pupil is prohibited
25 from transferring until the pupil is no longer chronically
26 absent, participating in the school engagement meeting, or a
27 party to the absenteeism prevention plan; provided, however, that
28 the bill authorizes such a pupil to transfer if the receiving
29 district approves the request to transfer. Once the pupil is no
30 longer chronically absent, no longer participating in the school
31 engagement meeting, and no longer a party to an absenteeism
32 prevention plan, the pupil is permitted to transfer. Current
33 Code section 282.18(16) provides that an application for open
34 enrollment may be granted at any time with approval of the
35 resident and receiving districts. The bill does not modify this

1 provision.

2 Current Code section 282.18(17) provides that the deadlines
3 associated with the submission of open enrollment applications
4 and notifications do not apply to a child whose parent or
5 guardian is filing a notification that the parent or guardian
6 intends to open enroll the child in a public school in another
7 school district for purposes of receiving full-time instruction
8 under Code section 256.43 (online learning program model). The
9 bill strikes this provision. The bill applies to applications
10 and notifications related to open enrollment that are submitted
11 on or after the effective date of the bill. Under current
12 Code section 282.18 (open enrollment), a parent or guardian is
13 required to send notification to the district of residence and
14 the receiving district that the parent or guardian intends to
15 enroll the parent's or guardian's child in a public school in
16 another school district by March 1 of the preceding school year
17 for students entering grades 1 through 12, or by September 1 of
18 the current school year for students entering kindergarten or for
19 prekindergarten students enrolled in special education programs
20 and included in the school district's basic enrollment.