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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. T. Matthews and Ritter

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SUMMARY

- Requires that each school district's intradistrict open enrollment policy include rolling approval of enrollment applications in each school that has not reached capacity and requires the district to determine the number of remaining vacancies.
- Prohibits a district from rejecting an applicant based on residential address, race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status.
- Prohibits charging an intradistrict open enrollment student tuition and fees greater than that charged to students assigned to the building by the district superintendent.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to hear appeals of denials of intradistrict open enrollment.
- Requires each district to annually report data related to intradistrict open enrollment applications, denials, and admissions.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Intradistrict open enrollment

The bill requires that a school district's intradistrict open enrollment policy include in its provision establishing district capacity limits by grade level and school building (1) the number of remaining vacancies in each grade level and school building and (2) post the numbers on its website every 12 weeks. Under the bill, the policy must also include a requirement that the school district continue to approve applications to enroll in each alternative school that has not reached its capacity limit.¹ The district must also post the entire policy on its public website.²

¹ R.C. 3313.97(B).

² R.C. 3313.97(E).

Rejection based on certain characteristics not permitted

The bill prohibits a district from rejecting applicants based on residential address, race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status. Continuing law already prohibits rejection based on academic or extra-curricular skill, disabling condition, English language proficiency, and certain disciplinary-related conditions.³

Tuition and fees

The bill prohibits a school board from charging tuition and fees for an intradistrict enrollment student that exceeds the tuition or fees charged to students assigned to the school building by the district superintendent.⁴

Appeals of rejected applications

If a district denies a student's application, the bill permits the student's parent or guardian to appeal to the Department of Education and Workforce. The Department must respond to the appeal within 90 days of its receipt.⁵

Annual report

The bill requires each school district to annually report to the Department the following information:

1. The total number of open enrollment applications received;
2. The total number of accepted applications;
3. The total number of denied applications; and
4. The reason for each denied application.

The Department must post that information on its website.⁶

Background

Intradistrict open enrollment

Intradistrict open enrollment is the process by which students can enroll into another school building within their assigned district, generally on a tuition free basis. If a district has more than one school building at any grade level, it must adopt an intradistrict open enrollment policy and have procedures for deciding when students may be allowed to enroll in a school building other than the one assigned by the district board or superintendent. If the district only has one school building for students to attend all grade levels, then it does not have to adopt an intradistrict open enrollment policy.⁷

³ R.C. 3313.97(C).

⁴ R.C. 3313.97(F).

⁵ R.C. 3313.97(G).

⁶ R.C. 3313.97(I).

⁷ R.C. 3313.97.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-20-25
