

Open Enrollment Policy Revision

Over the course of my discussions with various stakeholders, one topic that has come up on a number of occasions is that of “Open Enrollment”.

Without going into the details of those conversations, it is clear to me that some revisions can be made to improve our existing policy while following state law. Specifically, we need to set section size limits, transportation guidelines, timelines, and how best to handle siblings of students already open enrolled into our district.

Our existing policy (509) is based on *MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509*. [\(Link\)](#) The original wording is in BLACK text and recommendations for revisions in this wording is listed in RED text. BLUE text provides more detail on determining class section size and how to handle specific situations. This could be added now or at a later time.

Current school policy provides us with two ways to make a change in policy at one meeting. 1) An emergency that dictates an immediate policy change 2) Revision with only minor changes.

C. In the case of an emergency, a new or modified policy may be adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the school board. A statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The emergency policy shall expire within one year following the emergency action unless the policy adoption procedure stated above is followed and the policy is reaffirmed. The school board shall have discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation.

D. If a policy is modified with minor changes that do not affect the substance of the policy or because of a legal change over which the school board has no control, the modified policy may be approved at one meeting at the discretion of the school board.

My recommendation is to make a minor revision in our existing policy and establish section size limitations. We would then run a more detailed revision through our Board Committee that would address transportation guidelines, timelines, and how best to handle siblings of students already open enrolled into our district.