

The House K-12 Education Budget Committee has recommended several major pieces of legislation, including the so-called open enrollment bill. HB 2615 will next be considered by the full House, although when that will occur will be up to House leadership. KASB opposes this bill and encourages education leaders to contact their legislators to express concerns with this measure (here is a [link](#) to KASB testimony on initial open enrollment bill). It is noteworthy that this bill does not include the voucher-like education savings accounts, which KASB also opposed.

### **Recommended HB 2615 – Open Enrollment**

The bill would require each school board, by January 1, 2023, to adopt a policy to determine the number of non-resident students the district has capacity to accept at each grade level, and shall specify reasons the board may deny a transfer or continued enrollment of a nonresident student, which may include but not be limited to the student's record of absenteeism, suspensions or expulsions.

The board must hold a public hearing on the proposed policy prior to its adoption.

On and after July 1, 2023, each district must allow nonresidents to attend, subject to the following:

Non-resident students who apply to transfer prior to September 10 must be allowed to attend unless the number of transfers exceeds the capacity of a grade level as determined by board policy. Students who apply to transfer on or after September 10 may be enrolled.

Districts may also deny enrollment based on reasons adopted in its policy but may not accept or deny enrollment based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in English, measure of achievement, aptitude or athletic ability.

Districts must determine their capacity by August 1 of each year and post on their website. If a nonresident student is denied a transfer, the parents may appeal to the district board within 10 days for a hearing at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. If denied, the parents may appeal to the State Board of Education within 10 days for a hearing at the next State Board meeting. Each year, the State Board shall audit one randomly selected district to determine if it is complying with these provisions.

The amended bill removes a provision requiring that every parent must be allowed to speak at the board's public hearing, and a provision to allow military families to attend nonresident districts, regardless of capacity.

Provisions concerning alternative educational opportunities are moved and placed in HB 2512.

Provisions to establish education savings accounts are NOT included.