

# Understanding Open Enrollment

THE NEXT FRONTIER IN NC SCHOOL CHOICE

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## THE ISSUE

- Using a type of school choice known as open enrollment, parents can **select any traditional public school** with open seats instead of sending their children to their residentially assigned school
- This includes schools **within their assigned district or in a different district**
- Open enrollment represents the next frontier in school choice
- Despite multiple benefits shown by research, North Carolina remains **one of the few states that has not adopted a statewide open enrollment program**

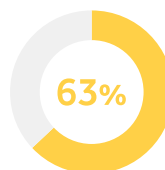
## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Require all school districts to participate in open enrollment.** This should include both inter- and intra-district open enrollment options for students
- **Prohibit districts from charging fees or tuition.** Districts may be tempted to charge tuition or fees to students changing schools. That is wrong and should be prohibited
- **Provide transportation services.** Creative options including private services such as HopSkipDrive or other vendors can affordably get children to school quickly, safely, and reliably

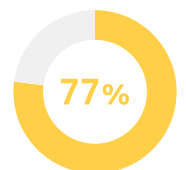
## KEY FACTS



- About **1 in 4** North Carolina students attend schools of choice (private, charter, homeschool)
- Of the remaining students in traditional public schools, **open enrollment provides another option for a student whose needs are not being met by their current school**
- Research into open enrollment programs in other states shows not only **improved academic outcomes** for those students switching schools, but also that schools losing students were motivated to make improvements
- **Only a few counties** in North Carolina, including Union and Granville, have open enrollment options



- Recent polling shows that nearly **two-thirds (63%) of North Carolinians support a statewide law allowing children to attend any public school of their choice**



- Another recent poll found that about **77 percent of North Carolinians** they said **support open enrollment as a policy**
- Despite claims to the contrary, open enrollment policies don't drain funds from district schools, actually can **benefit rural schools, and do not create insurmountable transportation challenges**

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