

"Course Options" for Public School Students: - The old part-time public school open enrollment law, section 118.52 of the state statutes, was renamed and significantly revised. Under the new "Course Options" law any student enrolled in a public school, regardless of their grade level, may apply to take up to two courses in another educational institution during any semester. For purposes of this law, "educational institution" includes a public school in a nonresident school district, the University of Wisconsin System, a technical college, a nonprofit institution of higher education, a tribal college, a charter school, and any nonprofit organization that has been approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The old part-time public school open enrollment law only-applied to--taking courses in public high schools. School boards are required to adopt policies that specify the criteria that they will use in accepting or denying student course applications under the new "Course Options" law -course applications that are received from resident students and those received from nonresident students. This includes school boards in K-8 school districts, which were not affected by the old part-time open enrollment law. The district's policy criteria for accepting or denying course applications must be in line with the following provisions included in state law: Resident School District Criteria- The student's resident school district is required to deny a student's application to attend a course at another educational institution if it is determined that the course conflicts with the student's individualized education program (IEP). The resident school district may also deny a student's application if the district determines that: (1) the course does not satisfy a high school graduation requirement, or (2) the course does not conform to or support the student's academic and career plan , if any. Unlike under the old part-time public school open enrollment law, there is no authority under the newly revised law for a resident school district to deny a resident student's application to attend a course in a nonresident district, or any other educational institution, if the cost would impose an undue financial burden on the resident district. Nonresident School District Criteria School board policies and criteria for accepting and denying course applications from students who reside in another school district must be the same as the policies and criteria for entry into the course that apply to students who reside in the school district, except that the school board may give preference in attendance in a course to residents of the school district.