



OPEN ENROLLMENT & THE SCHOOL NEAR WORK ACT

*Model Policy
December 2023*

1) Short Title

This act shall be known and may be cited as the “School Near Work Act,” (the “Act”).

2) Legislative Declaration

- a. Whereas students in this state have the right to access a free and appropriate public education that meets their unique needs; and
- b. Whereas school assignment by residential address excludes students from accessing a public education that meets their unique needs; and
- c. Whereas parents who work near a school serve and are a critical component of the local community; and
- d. Whereas it is in the best interest of the student to have their parent actively engaged in their education; and
- e. Whereas a parent may be more actively engaged in a school if it is located near their place of work;
- f. Therefore, the Legislature declares it is in the interest of individual students and schools to encourage parents to enroll their children in schools near their place of work.

3) Definitions

- a. A “parent” means any person who is a legal guardian of a child who is entitled to attend public school in the state.
- b. For the purposes of this act, “near” means within the attendance zone or the attendance zones immediately adjacent to a parent’s workplace.
- c. A “place of employment” is the physical address or the mailing address of a business that remunerates employees either through a 1099 or W-2 classified arrangement.
- d. Attendance zone means the local public school boundaries.

4) School Near Work Act

- a. Parents may enroll their children at a school near their place of employment regardless of the parent’s residential address.
 - i. For the purposes of this act, a parent’s place of employment may serve as their address for purposed of enrollment in a school near their place of employment.
 - ii. A school district shall not create an alternative process for enrollment for parents utilizing enrollment under this act.



OPEN ENROLLMENT & THE SCHOOL NEAR WORK ACT

Model Policy
December 2023

- iii. A school district shall allow for parents to indicate a preference for receiving mail at an address other than their residential address.
- b. Once a child is enrolled in a school, the parent's residential address shall remain in effect until the parent changes the address.
- c. If the status of the parent's employment changes, the child's enrollment in the school shall continue unless the parent enrolls the child in another school or changes their residential address.
 - i. A school district may require a copy of a W-2 or 1099 to verify the address of a place of employment.
- d. A school district may provide transportation for students enrolled under this act.

5) **Funding**

- a. For the purposes of this act, a student shall be counted in the (insert public school attendance formula section) of the school district the student attends.