

Pittsfield School District

Public Hearing: Open Enrollment Information

Open Enrollment - Public Information Handout

This handout is intended to provide factual information about the proposed Open Enrollment warrant article. It is informational only and does not advocate for or against the article.

What Is Being Proposed?

The proposed warrant article would designate Pittsfield Elementary School and Pittsfield Middle High School as open enrollment schools. This would allow students from outside Pittsfield to attend Pittsfield schools when space exists. The article would also limit the percentage of Pittsfield students who may attend open enrollment schools outside the District to zero percent (0%).

Important Financial Facts

- Open enrollment does not reduce District costs.
- When students leave Pittsfield, the District cannot reduce teachers, transportation, or services.
- Fixed costs such as facilities, utilities, and administration remain.
- Costs are spread across fewer students, increasing the cost per pupil.

Why Cost Per Pupil Matters

Open enrollment tuition is based on the District's cost per pupil. As enrollment declines and cost per pupil rises, tuition costs increase and place greater pressure on local taxpayers.

Special Education Considerations

When Pittsfield students attend schools in other districts, Pittsfield remains responsible for special education costs and oversight. This requires additional case management and compliance work, which increases overall District special education costs.

State Funding Impact

When students leave Pittsfield schools, the District loses state adequacy aid tied to those students, while District costs remain largely unchanged and, in the case of special education, likely increase.

What This Article Does NOT Do

- It does not affect legally required placements, including IEP or court-ordered placements.
- It does not eliminate school choice options that exist under other laws.
- It does not reduce educational services for Pittsfield students.

Next Steps

No vote is taken at the public hearing. The article will be considered at Deliberative Session and then placed on the ballot for voter decision.