

School Board of Clay County

December 11, 2025 - Regular School Board Meeting

Title

C2 - Controlled Open Enrollment (COE) Plan for the 2026-2027 School Year

Description

The Clay County School District's Controlled Open Enrollment (COE) Plan is being brought to the School Board for approval for the 2026-2027 school year. Florida Statute § 1002.31 directs each school district to develop a controlled open enrollment plan. The Clay County School Board has previously developed a policy to establish how students may attend schools outside of their attendance zone. The COE Plan will set the threshold capacity number to be used by the district in determining which schools have available capacity and will participate in controlled open enrollment throughout the 2026-2027 school year.

Gap Analysis

The Controlled Open Enrollment plan allows the Clay County School District to make student school assignments using the parent or guardians' indicated preferential school choice as a significant factor when capacity allows at specific, previously identified schools.

Previous Outcomes

In 2017, Clay County School District administered Controlled Open Enrollment for the first time. The number of applicants for each previous year, and the current year, is reflected in the chart below.

COE Year	Number of Applicants
2017-2018	417
2018-2019	406
2019-2020	516
2020-2021	657
2021-2022	241
2022-2023	56*
2023-2024	110*
2024-2025	96*
2025-2026	288*
Total	2,731

*56 applicants between July 1 - December 6, 2022

*110 applicants between July 1 - March 26, 2024

*96 applicants between June 3 - November 18, 2024

*288 applicants between June 3 - November 12, 2025

Expected Outcomes

For the 2026-2027 Controlled Open Enrollment process, the Clay County School District aims to once again incorporate parental choice as a significant factor in student school assignment, where available capacity allows. Schools with available capacity will accept students based on the previously approved School Board policy for COE, which identifies priority categories to be used when filling open seats. Should more students apply than seats available for any given school, the Clay County School District will conduct a random lottery selection process based on School Board policy.

Strategic Plan Goal

The Controlled Open Enrollment process furthers the district's strategic plan of Goal 1: Engage all students to attain the necessary skills and knowledge to be future-ready graduates.

Recommendation

The School Board recommends approval of the Controlled Open Enrollment (COE) Plan for the 2026-2027 school year

Contact

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Financial Impact

No Financial Impact. Note: Students transferring to the Clay County School District from surrounding counties will bring a positive cash flow to our district based upon increased FTE dollars.

Review Comments**Attachments**

📎 [Clay County District Schools COE Plan 2026-2027.pdf](#)