

SCHOOL CHOICE MATTERS

Washington Policy Report

Introduction

PURPOSE

A combination of well-designed policies give all students access to the broadest range of educational opportunities, including key core policies and helpful policy enhancers. The purpose of this document is to provide insight to how well your state is doing at implementing the Ecosystem of School Choice Policies. This state report summarizes evidence across the seven policy buckets, with each policy component detailed in individual cells.

CORE POLICIES

Key policies expand student opportunities.



[Open Enrollment](#)



[Charter Schools](#)



[Private School Choice](#)



[Homeschooling](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS

Supporting policies enhance those opportunities.



[Part-time Enrollment/Course Access](#)



[Learn Everywhere](#)



[Transportation](#)

CORE POLICIES



Open Enrollment in Washington

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Transfers Between Districts</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Sending and/or receiving districts have discretion over transfers</p>	<p>Education of Pupils in Another District / Choice Transfer</p> <p>Washington Code establishes that, with some limitations, “a local district may be authorized by the educational service district superintendent to transport and educate its pupils in other districts for one year, either by payment of a compensation agreed upon by such school districts, or under other terms mutually satisfactory to the districts concerned when this will afford better educational facilities for the pupils and when a saving may be effected in the cost of education.” Authorization may be extended for another year at the discretion of the educational service district superintendent.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.225.200. Education of pupils in another district—Limitation as to state apportionment—Exemption)</p> <p>Washington Code allows for an appeal to the state superintendent of public instruction of a decision to deny a student’s request for release to a nonresident district (pursuant to RCW 28A.225.200. Education of pupils in another district—Limitation as to state apportionment—Exemption), provided that the school district of the proposed transfer is willing to accept the student. The superintendent of public instruction may order the resident district to release such a student who is under the age of twenty-one years if the requirements of RCW 28A.225.220 Adults, children from other districts, agreements for attending school - Tuition have been met.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.225.230 Appeal from certain decisions to deny student's request to attend nonresident district—Procedure)</p> <p>Administrative Code implementing the statutory authority of school districts to contract for the services establishes requirements that must be met “when a school district contracts with an entity other than a school district and that entity employs staff to provide basic education instruction claimed by the school district for state basic education funding”, including when:</p>

- “The school district board of directors...adopts a resolution that concludes it is in the best interest of the students to expand the options available by providing an appropriate basic education program pursuant to the contract and sets forth the rationale in support of the conclusion. A board adopted resolution is not required for online courses purchased by the school district from an online provider approved by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.250.020.”

[\(WAC 392-121-188 Instruction provided under contract\)](#)

Note: [WA OSPI, Online Learning for Students and Families](#) directs students and families interested in full-time online learning to request a “Choice Transfer” if attending a program in another district.

Applications from School Employees’ Children

Washington Code requires districts to accept applications from nonresident students who are the children of full-time certificated and classified school employees. Exceptions to this requirement are established for students who reside out-of-state, students of military families to which [RCW 28A.225.217](#) applies, and nonhigh districts participating in an innovation academy cooperative. A district may reject such application for any of 4 specified reasons, including:

- Disciplinary records indicate a history of convictions for offenses or crimes, violent or disruptive behavior, or gang membership;
- The student has been expelled or suspended from a public school for more than ten consecutive days;
- Enrollment would displace a child who is a resident of the district, with some exceptions;
- The student has repeatedly failed to comply with requirements for participation in an online school program.

If the application is rejected, the notification shall include the reason or reasons for denial and the right to appeal.

[\(RCW 28A.225.225 Applications from school employees' children, nonresident students, or students receiving home-based instruction to attend district school—Acceptance and rejection standards—Notification\)](#)

Applications from Nonresident Students or Students Receiving Home-Based Instruction

All districts accepting applications from nonresident students or from students receiving home-based instruction for admission to the district’s schools are required to consider all applications equally. A district’s policy for the acceptance and rejection of applications may allow for rejection of a nonresident student in limited circumstances, including:

- Acceptance of a nonresident student would result in the district experiencing a financial hardship;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student's disciplinary records indicate a history of convictions for offenses or crimes, violent or disruptive behavior, or gang membership; • Acceptance would conflict with the student's enrollment in an innovation academy cooperative; • The student has been expelled or suspended from a public school for more than ten consecutive days. <p>If the application is rejected, the notification shall include the reason or reasons for denial and the right to appeal.</p> <p>The decision of a school district to deny a nonresident student's request for transfer under RCW 28A.225.225 Applications from school employees' children, nonresident students, or students receiving home-based instruction to attend district school – Acceptance and rejections standards - Notification may be appealed to the superintendent of public instruction. The superintendent of public instruction may order the district to accept the nonresident student if the district did not comply with the standards and procedures adopted under RCW 28A.225.225.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.225.230 Appeal from certain decisions to deny student's request to attend nonresident district— Procedure)</p> <p>Washington Administrative Code promulgated pursuant to statutory appeal provisions requires a resident district to release a student to a nonresident district if the student meets specified criteria, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The nonresident district agrees to accept the student. (2) The student demonstrates a ground for release from among the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a financial, educational, safety, or health condition affecting the student would likely be reasonably improved as a result of the transfer (WAC 392-137-135); ○ attendance in the nonresident district is more accessible to the parent's place of work or to the location of child care (WAC 392-137-140); or ○ there is a special hardship or detrimental condition (WAC 392-137-145). ○ The resident district has not denied the release for desegregation reasons. <p>(WAC 392-137-130 Release of students to nonresident districts)</p>
<p>Transfers Within Districts</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>School officials can block transfers</p>	<p>Washington Code requires that each school district adopt and implement a policy allowing intradistrict enrollment options and establishing standards on how the intradistrict enrollment options will be implemented.</p>

		<p>Such a policy is only required to permit the enrollment of children of full-time certificated and classified school employees to enroll either at the school to which the employee is assigned or a school in the district providing early intervention services.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.225.270 Intradistrict enrollment options policies)</p>
Year-round Transfer Window	<p>NO</p> <p>No policy</p>	<p>The state’s policies on student transfers do not specify transfer windows.</p>
Tuition-Free Public Schools	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Tuition can be charged</p>	<p>Information published by WA OSPI indicates that a nonresident school district may not charge a transfer fee or tuition for nonresident students.</p> <p>(WA OSPI, Learning By Choice)</p> <p>Nonresident school districts are prohibited from charging tuition in the following circumstances:</p> <p>Adults, children from other districts, agreements for attending school—Tuition.</p> <p>(6) School districts may not charge transfer fees or tuition for nonresident students enrolled under subsection (3) of this section and RCW 28A.225.225 (pertaining to students who are children of full-time certificated and classified school employees, a student denied to an innovation academy, and previously homeschooled students).</p> <p>(3) A district shall release a student to a nonresident district that agrees to accept the student if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A financial, educational, safety, or health condition affecting the student would likely be reasonably improved because of the transfer; or (b) Attendance at the school in the nonresident district is more accessible to the parent’s place of work or to the location of childcare; or (c) There is a special hardship or detrimental condition; or (d) The purpose of the transfer is for the student to enroll in an online course or online school program offered by an online provider approved under RCW 28A.250.020.
School Capacity Transparency	<p>NO</p> <p>No transparency policy</p>	<p>The state’s policies on student transfers do not require transparency.</p>

<p>Transfer Data Transparency</p>	<p>NO No transparency in data reporting</p>	<p>The state does not collect and publicly report open enrollment data.</p>
<p>Transparent Appeal Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>State statute establishes an appeal process for a district’s denial of a request for interdistrict transfer. (RCW 28A.225.230 Appeal from certain decisions to deny student’s request to attend nonresident district—Procedure)</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes	Administrative Code	State Department of Education
<p>RCW 28A.225.200 Education of pupils in another district—Limitation as to state apportionment—Exemption</p> <p>RCW 28A.225.225 Applications from school employees' children, nonresident students, or students receiving home-based instruction to attend district school—Acceptance and rejection standards—Notification</p> <p>RCW 28A.225.230 Appeal from certain decisions to deny student’s request to attend nonresident district—Procedure</p> <p>RCW 28A.225.270 Intradistrict enrollment options policies</p>	<p>WAC 392-121-188 Instruction provided under contract</p> <p>WAC 392-137-130 Release of students to nonresident districts</p>	<p>WA OSPI, Learning By Choice</p>



Charter Schools in Washington

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Multiple Charter Authorizers</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>No real authorizer options</p>	<p>Washington Code specifies the entities that may authorize charter schools. These are the Charter School Commission (CSC) and a school district board of directors.</p> <p>The CSC may exercise its authorizing authority for charter schools located anywhere in the state.</p> <p>A school district board of directors, only after receiving approval of the State Board of Education, may exercise its authorizing authority only for charter schools located within the school district’s boundaries.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.080 Charter school authorizers; see also RCW 28A.710.070 Washington state charter school commission)</p> <p>Washington Code establishes the process by which the State Board may approve school district board of directors as a charter authorizer.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.090 Charter school authorizers—Approval process)</p> <p>The State Board’s responsibilities include certifying charter school applications approved by CSC or a district authorizer between approval and contract ratification (to ensure there is space available within the 40 maximum allowed by law).</p> <p>Administrative Code defines “authorizer” as a school district board of directors that has been approved to be a charter school authorizer and the charter school commission.</p> <p>(WAC 180-19-010. Definitions)</p>

<p>Charter Appeal Process</p>	<p>NO No appeals process</p>	<p>Washington Code requires that the State Board of Education establish an annual statewide timeline for charter application submission and approval or denial. All authorizers must follow the prescribed timeline.</p> <p>An applicant whose application is denied may subsequently reapply to that authorizer or apply to another authorizer in the state. There is no appeal process authorized.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.140 Charter applications—Submission—Approval or denial)</p>
<p>Charter Regulatory Flexibility</p>	<p>LIMITED Some or no exemptions</p>	<p>Washington Code requires charter schools to comply with local, state, and federal health, safety, parents' rights, civil rights, and nondiscrimination laws applicable to school districts. In addition, charter schools must employ certificated instructional staff, however, they “may hire noncertificated instructional staff of unusual competence and in exceptional cases as specified in RCW 28A.150.203(7)” Charters are exempt from participation in any outside collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>Charter schools must also comply with state statutes and rules made applicable to the school in the school’s charter contract.</p> <p>Beyond those restrictions, charter schools receive considerable flexibility in that state statute establishes that, “[F]or the purpose of allowing flexibility to innovate in areas such as scheduling, personnel, funding, and educational programs to improve student outcomes and academic achievement, charter schools are not subject to, and are exempt from, all other state statutes and rules applicable to school districts and school district boards of directors. Except as provided otherwise by this chapter or a charter contract, charter schools are exempt from all school district policies.”</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.040 Charter schools—Requirements)</p>
<p>Equitable Charter Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED Disparities exist</p>	<p>Washington Code requires the superintendent of public instruction to, in accordance with legislative appropriations (provided for in RCW 28A.710.270 Appropriations from Washington opportunity pathways account), distribute state funding to charter schools in accordance with a schedule established in statute.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.510.250 Apportionment schedule by state superintendent; RCW 28A.710.220 Student enrollment reporting—Funding—Distribution and reconciling of funding in school's first year of operation)</p> <p>Washington Code provides that the legislature “intends that state funding for charter schools be distributed equitably with state funding provided for other public schools.” The superintendent of public instruction is required to transmit to each charter school an amount calculated in accordance with a statutory formula, and based on the statewide average salaries for certificated instructional staff adjusted by the regionalization factor that applies to the school district in which the charter school is geographically located, including any enrichment</p>

		<p>to those statutory formulae that is specified in the omnibus appropriations act. The amount distributed must include moneys appropriated for general apportionment and moneys appropriated by the legislature to charter schools, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplemental instruction and services for students who are not meeting academic standards through the learning assistance program; • Supplemental instruction and services for eligible and enrolled students and exited students whose primary language is other than English through the transitional bilingual instruction program; • Pupil transportation services to and from school, calculated on a per eligible student basis based on the allocation for the previous school year to the school district in which the charter school is located. <p>(RCW 28A.710.280 Distribution of funding—Rules)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The superintendent of public instruction must adopt rules necessary for the distribution of funding under RCW 28A.710.280. <p>The rules do not significantly elaborate on the legislative intent and statutory provisions.</p>
<p>Charter Facilities Funding</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Some or no facilities funding</p>	<p>Washington Code establishes that charter schools are eligible for state funding for school construction; however, appropriations for such may not be made from the common school construction fund.</p> <p>A charter school located within the boundaries of a local school district has a right of first refusal to purchase or lease a closed public school facility or property or any unused portions of a facility or property.</p> <p>A charter school may contract with a school district, public college or university, or other public or private entity for use, at fair market rent, of a facility for a school building.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.230 Facilities—State funding for common school construction)</p> <p>Washington Code establishes that charter school boards may, with some limitations, “issue secured and unsecured debt, including pledging, assigning, or encumbering its assets to be used as collateral for loans or extensions of credit to manage cash flow, improve operations, or finance the acquisition of real property or equipment.” A charter school board may not levy taxes or issue tax-backed bonds.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.030 Charter school boards—Powers)</p>

<p>Options for High-Performing Charters</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>No opportunities for high-performing charter schools</p>	<p>Washington state policies do not establish opportunities for high-performing charter schools.</p>
<p>Charter Zoning Exemptions</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Less than full protections</p>	<p>Washington Code does not give charters a blanket exemption from local zoning and ordinances; however, public libraries, community service organizations, museums, performing arts venues, theaters, and public or private colleges and universities may provide space to charter schools within their facilities under their preexisting zoning and land use designations.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.230 Facilities—State funding for common school construction)</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[RCW 28A.710.080 Charter school authorizers](#)

[RCW 28A.710.070 Washington state charter school commission](#)

[RCW 28A.710.090 Charter school authorizers—Approval process](#)

[RCW 28A.710.140 Charter applications—Submission—Approval or denial](#)

[RCW 28A.710.040 Charter schools—Requirements](#)

[RCW 28A.710.220 Student enrollment reporting—Funding—Distribution and reconciling of funding in school's first year of operation](#)

[RCW 28A.710.280 Distribution of funding—Rules](#)

[RCW 28A.710.230 Facilities—State funding for common school construction](#)

[RCW 28A.710.030 Charter school boards—Powers](#)

[RCW 28A.710.070 Washington state charter school commission](#)

[RCW 28A.710.230 Facilities—State funding for common school construction](#)

Administrative Code

[WAC 180-19-010 Definitions](#)

State Department of Education/State Board of Education

[Charter Schools FAQ](#)



Private School Choice in Washington

POLICY	OVERALL RATING	PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Universal Eligibility	<p>NO</p> <p>No choice program</p>	<p>Washington does not have a private school choice program.</p>
Comparable Student Funding	<p>NO</p> <p>No choice program</p>	
Uncapped Student Access	<p>NO</p> <p>No choice program</p>	
Extended Application Window	<p>NO</p> <p>No choice program</p>	
Student Testing Options	<p>NO</p> <p>No choice program</p>	
School Autonomy	<p>NO</p> <p>No choice program</p>	

Accessible School Participation	NO No choice program	
ESAs and Parent-Directed Spending		
Freedom to Customize	NO No ESA or microgrant program	Washington does not have an education scholarship account or microgrant program.
Freedom to Access	NO No ESA or microgrant program	
Carry-Over Funding	NO No ESA or microgrant program	
Tax Credits		
Full Tax Credit	NO No choice program	Washington does not have an education tax credit program.



Homeschooling in Washington

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Homeschool without Prior Approval	<p>YES</p> <p>No permission required</p>	<p>Washington Code establishes that a child receiving qualified home-based instruction is exempt from the requirement to attend the public school of the district in which the child resides.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.225.010 Attendance mandatory—Age—Exceptions)</p> <p>Parents do not need to receive permission to start homeschooling.</p>
No Extra Homeschool Notifications	<p>NO</p> <p>Annual notification</p>	<p>Washington Code requires the parent of a child receiving home-based instruction to annually file a signed declaration of intent that the child receive home-based instruction.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.200.010 Home-based instruction—Duties of parents—Exemptions from state learning goals, state learning standards, and high school assessments)</p>
No Certification to Homeschool	<p>NO</p> <p>Certification requirement</p>	<p>Washington Code requires home-based instruction to be provided “by a parent who is instructing his or her child only and are supervised by a certificated person”; by a parent who is instructing his or her child only and who has either earned forty-five college-level quarter credit hours or its equivalent in semester hours or has completed a course in home-based instruction at a postsecondary institution or a vocational-technical institute”; or a parent “who is deemed sufficiently qualified to provide home-based instruction by the superintendent of the local school district in which the child resides.”</p> <p>(RCW 28A.225.010 Attendance mandatory—Age—Exceptions)</p>
Flexible Assessment Options	<p>NO</p> <p>Standardized testing required</p>	<p>Washington Code requires the parent of a student being provided home-based instruction to ensure that a standardized achievement test approved by the State Board of Education is administered annually to the child by a qualified individual or that an annual assessment of the student’s academic progress is written by a certificated person who is currently working in the field of education. The standardized test administered or the annual academic progress assessment written must be made a part of the child’s permanent records.</p>

([RCW 28A.200.010 Home-based instruction—Duties of parents—Exemptions from state learning goals, state learning standards, and high school assessments](#))

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[RCW 28A.225.010 Attendance mandatory—Age—Exceptions](#)

[RCW 28A.200.010 Home-based instruction—Duties of parents—Exemptions from state learning goals, state learning standards, and high school assessments](#)

State Department of Education

[WA OSPI, Home Based Instruction](#)

POLICY ENHANCERS



Part-time Enrollment in Washington

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Resident Course Access	YES	<p>Washington Code requires that school districts permit enrollment of and provide ancillary services for part-time students.</p> <p>Part time student is defined as any student “enrolled in a course of instruction in a private school and taking courses at and/or receiving ancillary services offered by any public school not available in such private school; or any student who is not enrolled in a private school and is receiving home-based instruction under RCW 28A.225.010 which instruction includes taking courses at or receiving ancillary services from the local school district or both; or any student involved in any work training program and taking courses in any public school, which work training program is approved by the school board of the district in which such school is located.”</p> <p>A school district is reimbursed for the costs associated with the attendance of, or services provided for, part-time students on a part-time basis, by the superintendent of public instruction, according to law.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.150.350 Part time students- Defined – Enrollment authorized....)</p> <p>Administrative Code implementing these provisions permit an eligible part-time public school student who qualifies as a resident of a public school district (using the “resident student” definition provided in WAC 392-137 Finance - Nonresident Attendance) to attend the schools of the district within his or her attendance area tuition free on a part-time basis. Eligible part-time public school students who meet the admission policies of a public charter school are also entitled to attend the school tuition free on a part-time basis. Any such part-time student is eligible to take any course, receive any ancillary service, and take or receive any combination of courses and ancillary services which is made available by a public school to full-time students.</p> <p>(WAC 392-134-010 Attendance rights of part-time public school students)</p>

		<p>Administrative Code establishes that the enrollment of a part-time public school student who otherwise attends a private school must be conditioned by a parent or guardian’s certification that the student is a private school student and the course and/or ancillary service desired is not available at the private school.</p> <p>(WAC 392-134-015 Enrollment practices and conditions)</p>
<p>Nonresident Course Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Districts only serve resident students or can impose other restrictions</p>	<p>Washington Code requiring that school districts permit enrollment of and provide ancillary services for part-time students, distinguishes between a student enrolled in a private school vs receiving home-based instruction. The definition of “part-time student” permits a private school student to take courses at and/or receive ancillary services “offered by any public school not available in such private school”, whereas students receiving home-based instruction are limited to “taking courses at or receiving ancillary services from the local school district...”</p> <p>While this language could suggest that private school students have access to courses outside of their district, the statute limits application of the section “to part time students who would be otherwise eligible for full time enrollment in the school district.”</p> <p>(RCW 28A.150.350 Part time students- Defined – Enrollment authorized....)</p> <p>Administrative Code establishes that eligible nonresident part-time public school students may be enrolled at the discretion of a public school district pursuant to nonresident student attendance requirements set out in WAC 392-137 Finance - Nonresident Attendance, as now or hereafter amended.</p> <p>(WAC 392-134-010 Attendance rights of part-time public school students)</p>
<p>Virtual Course Access</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>The state has one or more fully accessible virtual providers</p>	<p>Approval of Online Providers</p> <p>Washington Code requires that the superintendent of public instruction establish approval criteria and a process for approving online providers, which includes any provider of an online course or program, including multidistrict online providers, all school district online learning programs, and all regional online learning programs. The state does not operate a virtual school.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.250.020 Multidistrict online providers—Approval criteria—Advisory committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Code 28A.150.350 authorizes the superintendent of public instruction to promulgate administrative rules for its implementation. <p>No additional relevant information is included in the regulations.</p>

		<p>Student Access to Online Courses and Online Learning Programs Washington Code requires all school district boards to have policies and procedures regarding student access to online courses and online learning programs.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.250.050 Student access to online courses and online learning programs—Policies and procedures—Course credit—Dissemination of information—Development of local or regional online learning programs)</p> <p>State education agency information made available for students and families notes that those interested in part-time online learning should consult their resident district as each district has its own policies. If no program exists in the district, part-time enrollment in a course listed in the agency’s course catalog is permissible and registration can be completed after the school or district provides written approval that the online credit will be accepted.</p> <p>(WA OSPI, Online Learning for Students and Families)</p>
<p>Extracurricular Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Access denied to some resident students, or students must take at least one class in a public school</p>	<p>Washington Administrative Rules permit eligible part-time public school students (the definition of which includes a student enrolled in a private school and taking courses and/or receiving ancillary services from a public school not available in the private school and any student not enrolled in a private school who is receiving home-based instruction which includes taking courses at and/or receiving ancillary services from the local district, who meet the admission policies of a public charter school to attend the school tuition free on a part-time basis and to take any course, receive any ancillary service, and take or receive any combination of courses and ancillary services which is made available by a public school to full-time students.</p> <p>(WAC 392-134-010 Attendance rights of part-time public school students)</p> <p>Washington Code establishes that a charter school may participate in state or district-sponsored interscholastic programs, awards, scholarships, or competitions to the same extent as other public schools.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.060 Enrollment options information—Earned credits—Participation in district-sponsored interscholastic programs; see also RCW 28A.710.300 Interscholastic athletic activities—Washington interscholastic activities association rules)</p>

SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes

[RCW 28A.150.350 Part time students- Defined – Enrollment authorized....](#)

[RCW 28A.250.020 Multidistrict online providers— Approval criteria—Advisory committee](#)

[RCW 28A.250.050 Student access to online courses and online learning programs—Policies and procedures—Course credit—Dissemination of information—Development of local or regional online learning programs](#)

[RCW 28A.710.060 Enrollment options information— Earned credits—Participation in district-sponsored interscholastic programs](#)

Administrative Code

[WAC 392-134-010 Attendance rights of part-time public school students](#)

[WAC 392-134-015 Enrollment practices and conditions](#)

State Department of Education

[WA OSPI, Online Learning](#)

[WA OSPI, Online Learning for Students and Families](#)

[WA OSPI, Student Transfers](#)



Learn Everywhere in Washington

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
Provider Qualification Standard	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	<p>Washington has not established a Learn Everywhere program.</p>
Course Credit Standard	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	
Core Course Opportunities	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	
Central State List	<p>NO</p> <p>No program</p>	



Transportation in Washington

POLICY	RATING	POLICY OVERVIEW
<p>Open Enrollment Transit</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Washington policies do not provide for the transportation of open enrollment students.</p> <p>Information published by WA OSPI indicates that “if existing district transportation routes do not meet the needs of the transferring student, the student and parent or guardian are responsible for arranging for school transportation.”</p> <p>(WA OSPI, Learning By Choice)</p>
<p>Fair Transportation Access</p>	<p>LIMITED</p> <p>Equitable transportation offered to some charter OR private students</p>	<p>Washington Code requires that funding provided to charter schools include appropriations for charter schools to provide pupil transportation services to and from school.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.280 Distribution of funding—Rules)</p> <p>State statute provides that “a charter school application is to include, among other things, plans for providing transportation, food service, and all other significant operational or ancillary services”. There is no requirement that a local school district allow charter school and private school students to access transportation services provided by the district.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.710.130 Charter school applications—Solicitation for proposals, content—Charter school application, content)</p>

<p>Vehicle Flexibility</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>School districts are encouraged to use a vehicle type deemed by a district to be a safe and cost-effective manner of transporting its students, including using school buses and other vehicles, and may use the student transportation allocation accordingly.</p> <p>(RCW 28A.160.150, as updated by Senate Bill 25-5009)</p> <p>Administrative Rule establishes that vehicles with a seating capacity, including the driver, of ten (10) persons or less are not required to meet school bus specifications. When used to transport students to and from school or in connection with a school activity, such vehicles must carry an approved first aid kit, pass a safety inspection, and carry other specified safety equipment.</p> <p>Rules also authorize school districts to use an “MFAB with a seating capacity of less than sixteen passengers...to transport students”, subject to certain requirements. An MFSAB must not be used in home-to-school transportation, or where any stop configuration would require the use of alternately flashing school bus warning lights if the vehicle were a school bus.</p> <p>(WAC 392-143-070 Other vehicles used to transport students)</p>
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SOURCE CITATIONS

Statutes	Administrative Code	State Department of Education
<p>RCW 28A.710.280 Distribution of funding—Rules</p> <p>RCW 28A.710.130 Charter school applications—Solicitation for proposals, content—Charter school application, content</p>	<p>WAC 392-143-070 Other vehicles used to transport students</p>	<p>WA OSPI, Learning By Choice</p> <p>WA OSPI, Student Transportation</p>

