2025

School Transfer Audit

OKLAHOMA
Educational Quality and Accountability

Annual Report: School Transfer Audit for SY 2024-2025

Introduction

The School Transfer Audit for the 2024-2025 school year was conducted by the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA) to ensure that school districts are adhering to state policies regarding student transfers. This audit is part of the OEQA's ongoing efforts to promote transparency and accountability in district operations, ensuring that students' rights are protected and that districts manage transfers efficiently and equitably.

The School Transfer Audit Program, effective January 1, 2022, originated from Senate Bill 783 and was later modified with House Bill 3038. As a result of this legislation, students are allowed to transfer to any school district in the state, whether they live in the district or not, if the school has the capacity for more students. District boards of education must establish a transfer policy, set capacity for each grade level for each school site, post the capacity numbers in a prominent place on their website, and update those numbers by the first day of January, April, July, and October each year. Under the law, OEQA is to annually "randomly select ten percent of the school districts in the state and conduct an audit of each district's approved and denied transfers based on the provisions of the policies adopted by the respective school district board of education". The law further states, "If the Office finds inaccurate reporting of capacity levels by a school district, the Office shall set the capacity for the school district" (70 O.S. § 8-101.2G). OEQA audits district policies, their capacity reporting, and each approved or denied transfer in the sample.

Purpose of the Audit

The primary purpose of the School Transfer Audit, as overseen by the OEQA, is to verify that districts have clear, accessible, and compliant policies and procedures for student transfers. These audits help to confirm that districts are following state laws and regulations, which aim to provide families with the flexibility to choose the educational environment that best meets their children's needs.

Audit Process and Findings

The audit process involved the review of district websites and documents related to student transfer policies. Districts were required to provide evidence of their policies and procedures, demonstrating their compliance with state requirements.

In 2025, OEQA audited a random sample of 10% of the districts in the state. Many of the 51 audited districts requested clarification in order to understand their legal obligations.

Key findings from the audit include:

- **Response Rate:** Out of the 51 districts selected for the audit, all 51 districts responded. This indicates a strong level of participation and cooperation among districts.

- **Policy Accessibility and Compliance Issues:** All districts had a current transfer policy, along with their capacity numbers posted on their websites. The audit did flag that a few of the districts had not yet updated their transfer numbers for the final quarter. Districts corrected these issues because of the audit.

- **Compliance with Regulations:** Districts' policies were evaluated to ensure they align with state laws concerning transfer procedures, timelines, and student rights.

Conclusion

The School Transfer Audit for SY 2024-2025, conducted by the OEQA, has provided valuable insights into how districts are managing student transfers. The high response rate from districts demonstrates a commitment to compliance and transparency. The audit also highlighted areas where districts needed assistance in understanding their legal obligations, and issues such as missing or incorrectly posted policies and capacity numbers were corrected as a result of the audit. The findings of this audit will be used by the OEQA to support districts in improving their policies and procedures, ultimately benefiting students and families across the state.