

Understanding the Open Enrollment Declaration E-CAST 2026

In 1993, Governor Wilson signed into law a bill intended to increase parental choice options within California's public schools. This bill required school districts to adopt an Open Enrollment Transfer procedure as a condition for receipt of apportionments from the State School Fund. Open Enrollment is an option that schools may utilize to allow non-resident students to attend a school other than their school of residence. It is not mandatory that any school take part in the Open Enrollment program.

In E-CAST, a Principal will make their open enrollment declaration by navigating to the Open Enrollment Forecast Review screen. Here they will review School Management Services - Master Planning and Demographics (SMS-MPD)'s proposed enrollment forecast for their school and see how the open enrollment population fits into their school.

SMS-MPD has previously forecast open enrollment students, separating them into two categories, Continuing and Replacement open enrollment. Starting with the 2023 E-CAST, SMS-MPD will no longer create a separate open enrollment forecast. Instead, continuing open enrollment students will be included in the Resident (Non-OE / Non-Trav) forecast. The only values that will pre-populate in the OPEN ENROLLMENT ITEM box will be "School Capacity", "Total Enrollment Forecast", and "Estimated Available Space". The field for "New Additional Declared OE" will be available to enter the open enrollment declaration; once that field has been filled, the "Principal's Proposed Total OE", "Principal's Final Declaration", "Estimated Space Available" and "OE that will not be staffed for until school begins" fields will populate. E-CAST will not allow a Principal to increase open enrollment beyond the school's estimated available space.

If the school has any continuing open enrollment students, however, the Principal is cautioned against setting the "New Additional Declared OE" to zero. Because the law specifies that siblings of continuing open enrollment students are entitled to attend the school, the Principal should assess the potential number of siblings that may be involved and plan accordingly. This may mean retaining a few seats to accommodate the incoming siblings of continuing open enrollment students. If they set the "New Additional Declared OE" total to zero, the Principal will see a warning message advising them to allow some space for siblings.

Please note that once new open enrollment students have been declared on an E-CAST application, they will not appear on the current EACE screen. ***The number of new open enrollment seats declared will not be staffed-for until Norm Day.***

If a Principal believes their estimated available space is incorrect, they may contact Vincent Maffei at vincent.maffei@lausd.net to discuss their concerns. The necessary

steps will be taken to review the school's capacity with the Principal and make any adjustments that are found to be warranted.

Remember! Staffing will only be allocated for continuing open enrollment. Any new open enrollment will not be staffed-for until Norm Day.