

# **Flour Bluff ISD Elimination of Tuition for all Out-of-District Transfer Students Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

## **Why is FBISD dropping the tuition rate for all out-of-district transfer students?**

The District has dropped transfer rates over the past few years to provide an expanded educational opportunity for families who reside outside the boundaries of the district. Even with a decrease in the tuition rates, the Flour Bluff ISD enrollment has remained flat. Previously, the District had been gaining a few students each year. Flour Bluff has historically done a great job of “paying as we go” for required maintenance projects and other needs. In the past, enrollment growth has provided the revenue required for those projects. No increased student enrollment means the District does not receive additional monies (i.e. state funding) for classrooms and students to improve facilities, programs, technology needs, security upgrades, etc.

## **Why is the District’s enrollment flat?**

The District has lost some students to surrounding school districts for various reasons. There has also been a decline in the workforce at some of the community’s largest employers which has impacted our district directly. In addition, our continuing to charge tuition has closed the door on families who would like to attend our District. The District polled surrounding districts to determine their out-of-district transfer tuition rates. The District learned we are the only district charging a tuition fee for out-of-district students. Therefore, staff made the recommendation to the Board of Trustees to eliminate the tuition charge completely which mirrors what is taking place at the school districts in our area.

## **How will eliminating the out-of-district transfer tuition rate increase revenue funding for the District?**

Each school year, the District receives approximately \$6,500 in state funding for each student enrolled. This amount exceeds the amount of revenue generated from charging tuition. The out-of-district transfer rate was set at \$475 per student, per semester. This year, FBISD has approximately 680 transfer students. Of that number, approximately 245 out-of-district transfer students pay the tuition. The remaining transfer students attend FBISD on a tuition-free transfer (employee’s children, children whose parents are enlisted or work at Naval Air Station-Corpus Christ, Naval Air Station-Kingsville or Corpus Christi Army Depot). To recoup the money lost from dropping the out-of-district transfer rate completely, we need approximately 36 new students to the District. Enrollment and Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA) are key components of public school funding in Texas. Under the current finance model, we need enrollment growth to receive additional revenue.

## **Will the drop of the out-of-district transfer tuition cause overcrowding in classrooms?**

No. The District has policies in-place on the number of students allowed in classrooms. These numbers vary depending on the grade, subject and educational setting. If a grade level becomes full, individuals who apply for a transfer would be placed on a waiting list.

## **Is the District changing the transfer application and review requirements?**

No. The Board of Trustees only approved to drop the tuition rate. All transfer application requirements will remain the same. The District will continue to review the student’s disciplinary history, attendance records, grades and scores on all state-mandated assessment or other appropriate standardized

assessments. In addition, a transfer is also contingent on availability of space in the grade level. These requirements are set in the District's Board Policy.

**My child is currently enrolled in FBISD as an out-of-district transfer student. Will the dropping of the transfer rate affect my child's chances of attending school next year as a transfer student?**

Students who are currently enrolled as an out-of-district transfer student will be given priority for the next school year, upon annual review of the student's records (attendance, disciplinary history, grades and scores on state mandated tests). Priority transfer requests include the following:

1. A resident student who has completed his or her junior year at the District high school and becomes a nonresident.
2. A student whose parents anticipate residency within 60 days. Proof of potential residency must be provided at the initial time of enrollment, with a follow-up in 45 days. If residency is not established in 60 days, the student shall be withdrawn.
3. A student whose parent is employed at the Naval Air Station in an active military position.
4. A secondary student who resides in an adjacent district that does not provide a secondary school program.
5. A student whose parent is employed on a permanent status or is a tenant of the base at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station or the Corpus Christi Army Depot.
6. A student of a nonresident District employee.

**Will the dropping of the tuition rate decrease the high educational standards currently in-place at FBISD?**

Flour Bluff ISD is a top-rated district in the state of Texas. Just this year, the District received an "A" rating from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Only 153 districts across the state received the top rating which is a testament to the commitment and hard work of our students and staff. All educational requirements and expectations will remain the same across all FBISD campuses for all students enrolled in Flour Bluff ISD.