

Transfer Report Frequently Asked Questions

(Updated January 31, 2018)

1. Why was the Transfer Report created by the Department?

The 2017 Indiana General Assembly passed Senate Bill 30 which mandated the creation of the Transfer Report to be distributed each Fall and Spring semester beginning in 2018. The law (IC 20-51-4-12) mandates the department to release:

- The school name and count of Choice Scholarship students who have legal settlement in each corporation
- The corporation name and count of students who have legal settlement in each corporation and attend a public school maintained by another school corporation
- The charter school name and count of students who have legal settlement in each corporation and attend a charter school

2. What does “transfer” mean in the context of the Transfer Report? Did these students move from one school to another?

No, in the context of this report, “transfer” means the transfer of students that attend a school other than their local public school corporation. The student may have never attended their corporation of legal settlement. The report is not an examination of student mobility (moving from one school to another); it is an examination of students attending a school receiving state funding (traditional public, charter, choice) other than the public school they would attend based on their corporation of legal settlement.

3. What does “legal settlement” mean?

In general, the legal settlement of a student is the corporation (school district) in which the student’s parent/guardian resides. Legal settlement is more fully defined in IC-20-26-11-2.

4. How was the data for the Transfer Report compiled?

Each Fall and Spring Semester, all public schools (traditional and charter) submit the Membership data collection (DOE-ME). Choice schools submit a similar Membership for Vouchers (DOE-MV) collection. In these collections, each school submits the students for which they will receive funding, as well as each student’s corporation of legal settlement (the corporation where the student resides). Using the school and legal settlement submitted on the collection, the Department identified the students attending a school outside their local school corporation, a charter school, or a non-public school as part of the Choice Scholarship program.

5. What are common “transfer” scenarios captured by the report?

There are many reasons students attend a school outside their corporation of legal settlement. The “Parent Choice” category includes students that attend a different school due to the choice of the parent. This category includes open enrollment opportunities, school employees enrolling their children where they work, or any other scenario where the parent chooses to enroll their student in a school other than their corporation of legal settlement.

The “Other Transfer” category includes students that attend a different school due to an agreement between the two schools. This includes placements due to special education programs, alternative

programs, or any other placement where the primary agreement is not between the parent and enrolled school.

6. Does the Transfer Report include all school-aged students in the State of Indiana?

No, the report only includes kindergarten through 12th grade students that are supported by state tuition support (public school corporations and charter schools) or by the Indiana Choice Scholarship program (non-public voucher program). Students not participating in the Choice Scholarship program that attend a non-public school are not included in this report. Home school students are also not included in this report.

7. How does the count of students in the Transfer Report differ from the Enrollment count for a corporation? How does the count differ from Average Daily Membership count?

Enrollment uses the Federal October 1st count date and includes all students enrolled at a school. The Transfer Report utilizes the September and February Membership funding collection. Published enrollment counts include pre-kindergarten students, which the transfer report does not include as those students are not funded by tuition support. Enrollment also includes non-public students that are not part of the Choice Scholarship program.

ADM (Average Daily Membership) is another state metric used for funding that is derived from the Membership collection. ADM includes several additional scenarios not captured in this report, such as students in non-school facilities, students placed in non-public credit recovery programs through the school corporation, and dual enrolled non-public students. Half-day kindergarten students count as .5 for ADM purposes, but are counted as full students for the purpose of the Transfer Report.

If you have further questions or inquiries related to the report, please contact Jeff Milkey, Director of Data Management and Analytics, by email (jmilkey@doe.in.gov) or phone (317-234-1332).