

To: Board of Education

From: Administrative Team

Date: January 19, 2026

Re: Open Enrollment Space Recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year

Elementary School, Middle School, High School

Based on the history of open enrollment in our district, there is not a need to limit any grade level at this time. The recommendation is to indicate unlimited space availability at grades 4K-12.

Special Education Programs:

Space available in each special education program is based on grade levels, needs of students currently attending and program design (self-contained vs regular education support). The caseloads have changed with increasing numbers of students in special education and increasing needs due to academic and behavior capabilities. In order to accurately reflect student and teacher limits, each student has been given a weighted score using a rubric based on curriculum, instruction, behavior, communication/planning, health, and safety needs of each student. The score was then classified into a range from minimal to comprehensive and compiled into a projected enrollment.

Related Services: Speech and Language, OT, PT

Space available in each of these therapy programs is based on DPI guidelines. The state recommends an OT and PT cap at 30 students per licensed full-time employee. Deerfield contracts with a third party for Occupational Therapy services, and therefore, the limit does not apply and is not included in the following chart. The state guideline for Speech and Language is a maximum of 35 students per licensed full-time employee at elementary and a maximum of 40 students per licensed full-time employee at middle and high school levels. Our Speech and Language 4-12 teacher covers both Elementary and MS/HS and therefore is capped at 37.

Approval of the Space Recommendation Chart: The board must make a final decision on the OE spaces available for 2026-2027 at the January board meeting. The motion should include a reference to approving the OE Space Recommendation chart with any changes that might be made at the meeting. The approved chart must become part of the formal board minutes.

OPEN ENROLLMENT SPACE RECOMMENDATION FOR 2026-2027

The following space is available to students applying for open enrollment for the 2026-27 school year. The estimated numbers include non-resident students already attending through open enrollment per our policy.

2026-2027 Open Enrollment Space Recommendation

Grade Level	Class Size Criterion	Sections (FTE)	Capacity	Projected Enrollment	Spaces Available
4K-6	NA	NA	NA	NA	Unlimited
7-8	NA	NA	NA	NA	Unlimited
9-12	NA	NA	NA	NA	Unlimited

Special Education Program/ Related Service	Program Size Criterion**	Sections (FTE)	Capacity	Projected Enrollment	Spaces Available
EC (PreK)	8	.5	4	5	0
CC-Elem (K-5)	8	4.0	32	32	0
CC-MS (6-8)	10	3.0	30	31	0
CC-HS (9-12)	12	3.25	39	45	0
S & L (EC-12)	35 (prek-3) 37 (4-12)	1.95	35 (prek-3) 37 (4-12)	35 (prek-3) 25 (4-12)	0
PT (PreK-12)	30	0.4	12	11	0

Projected enrollment is based on current enrollment plus current and projected referrals.

* OTA is .8 FTE

**Program size criterion is dependent on student weighted scores