

**HB 026/SB 350:** Public Schools - Open Enrollment - Policies and Funding: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee and Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose HB 026/SB 350**, concerning *Public Schools – Open Enrollment – Policies and Funding*.

While expanding educational options can be an appealing concept, this legislation raises significant concerns regarding funding stability, **local control**, and the potential unintended consequences for community-based schools.

Open enrollment policies that allow students to transfer across district lines can create **funding volatility** for local school systems. When per-pupil funding follows the student, **districts experiencing enrollment shifts may face sudden budget shortfalls while still maintaining fixed costs such as facilities, transportation, staffing, and special education services. This instability can negatively affect students who remain in their home districts.**

Additionally, the bill may limit the ability of locally elected boards of education to manage enrollment, capacity, and program offerings based on the unique needs of their communities. Education policy decisions are best made at the local level, where officials are most familiar with infrastructure constraints, demographic trends, and resource availability.

There are also practical considerations related to transportation, class size, and equitable access. Without clear and sustainable funding mechanisms, open enrollment may unintentionally advantage families with greater flexibility and resources, while creating administrative and logistical burdens for districts.

**Educational improvement should focus on strengthening all neighborhood schools rather than redistributing students in ways that may create fiscal and operational strain.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 026/SB 350**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

