

# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

December 4, 2025

**Agenda Item:** Appeal Decision 5228 (In re Open Enrollment of O.R.)

**State Board Goal:** Statutory obligation

**State Board Role/Authority:** The State Board has the duty to decide this appeal. Iowa Code chapter 290 (2025).

**Presenter(s):** None (consent agenda)

**Attachment(s):** Two

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board adopt the proposed decision in this matter.

**Background:** On October 13, 2025, the administrative law judge issued a proposed decision, affirming the Appellee's decision to deny open enrollment to O.R. The Appellant did not file an appeal of the proposed decision within the time period provided by Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281-6. The proposed decision will be placed on the Iowa State Board of Education's consent agenda at its December 4, 2025, for adoption as a matter of law. Iowa Administrative Code r. 281-6.6(3).

IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION  
CENTRAL PANEL BUREAU

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In re Open Enrollment of O.R., a child:

AMANDA RUPRECHT,

DIA Docket No. 26DOE0006

DOE Admin. Doc No. 5228

Complainant,

v.

LINN-MAR COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT,

**PROPOSED DECISION**

Respondent.

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Appellant Amanda Ruprecht seeks reversal of an August 4, 2025 decision by the Linn-Mar Community School District denying a late-filed open enrollment request on behalf of her minor child, O.R. The State Board of Education has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of the appeal, pursuant to Iowa Code sections 282.18 and 290.1.

A telephone hearing in this matter was held on September 30, 2025. Appellant Amanda Ruprecht appeared and testified on behalf of her daughter, O.R. The Linn-Mar Community School District was represented by Superintendent Amy Kortemeyer and Assistant Superintendent Nathan Wear, who testified for the district. The record includes the affidavit of appeal and supporting documents submitted by the Appellant, and exhibits A-D submitted by the district. The record was held upon for exhibit E, which was included as evidence.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Appellant Amanda Ruprecht resides within the boundaries of the Linn-Mar Community School District with her child, O.R. O.R. is in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2025-26 school year. On July 23, 2025, the Linn-Mar school district received an open enrollment application, which was after the March 1, 2025 deadline for the upcoming school year. The application contained question 14, which specified that this question should be completed only if the application is being filed after March 1 for grades 1-12. If after March 1, the applicant is instructed to “[c]heck circumstance(s) that apply to the student. List date of change or provide information when pertinent.” This section was

left blank and no other supporting documentation was included. (Ex. A, Wear testimony).

Linn-Mar denied the open enrollment application because it was submitted after the March 1 deadline and did not provide good cause for missing that deadline. The school board reviewed the application and district decision at the August 4, 2025 meeting and upheld the decision denying the open enrollment application. The district notified Ms. Ruprecht on August 5, 2025. (Ex. E, Wear testimony).

At hearing, Amanda Ruprecht testified that she understood why Linn Mar denied this application, but her daughter was still seeking to open enroll from the district. Ms. Ruprecht explained that she did timely complete and submit the open enrollment application, but the Marion school district did not receive the application. Subsequently, O.R.'s father's girlfriend completed another open enrollment form, but the application was late and the form was filled out incorrectly. Ms. Ruprecht appealed, asking if there was a way to reconsider this application. She also provided an August 6, 2025 note from Rachel Francois, ARNP, stating that O.R. had significant anxiety, which was causing her worsening gastrointestinal issues. O.R. was struggling with anxiety, had lost 15 pounds, and they just want her moved to a school district where she would be happy. (Ruprecht testimony, Department file).

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ANALYSIS**

Iowa Code section 282.18 governs the open enrollment process. The standard filing deadline for an application to open enroll a student for the upcoming school year is March 1. If a parent or guardian fails to file a notification of intention to open enroll by the applicable deadline, then the procedures of Iowa Code section 282.18, subsection 4 apply.<sup>1</sup> Subsection 4 provides:

After March 1 of the preceding school year and until the date specified in section 257.6, subsection 1, the parent or guardian shall send notification to the district of residence and the receiving district, on forms prescribed by the department of education, that good cause exists for failure to meet the March 1 deadline. The board of directors of a receiving school district may adopt a policy granting the superintendent of the school district authority to approve open enrollment applications submitted after the March 1 deadline. The board of the receiving district shall take action to approve the request if good cause exists. If the request is granted, the

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<sup>1</sup> Iowa Code (ICA) § 282.18(2)(a) (2025).

board shall transmit a copy of the form to the parent or guardian and the school district of residence within five days after board action. A denial of a request by the board of a receiving district is not subject to appeal.<sup>2</sup>

Good cause is not defined in subsection 4, nor is it defined in the Department's open enrollment regulations. Good cause is defined in Iowa Code section 282.18(11)(a)(8), which relates to participation of open enrollment students in varsity interscholastic sports. That subsection provides a list of situations that provide "good cause" for open enrollment, including change in the child's residence due to a change in family residence, placement in foster care, participation in a foreign exchange program, and permanent closure of a nonpublic school.

Iowa Code subsection 282.18 governs open enrollment applications filed after March 1 that do not qualify for good cause. These applications are subject to the approval of the board of the resident district and the board of the receiving district. A decision of either board to deny an application filed under subsection 4 involving repeated acts of harassment of the student or a serious health condition of the student that the resident district cannot adequately address is subject to appeal under Iowa Code section 290.1. The subsection provides that the state board "shall exercise broad discretion to achieve just and equitable results that are in the best interest of the affected child or children."<sup>3</sup>

There is no dispute here that the district did not receive an open enrollment application for O.R. until after the March 1 deadline that applied for the 2025-26 school year. Ms. Ruprecht does not allege that O.R. meets the good cause exception under of the circumstances applicable to subsection 4. The question, then, is whether O.R. has a serious health condition that the resident district cannot adequately address and whether that serious health condition justifies a late-filed application for open enrollment.

O.R. has been diagnosed by a nurse practitioner with anxiety. This note was submitted after the denial of the open enrollment form, so the district did not have the opportunity to review this request, or determine if there was a way to make an accommodation.

It is clear from the evidence in the record that Ms. Ruprecht wishes for O.R. to attend the Marion school district. However, the open enrollment application that was submitted on behalf of O.R. left blank the section regarding applications filed after March 1. Even if that portion had been completed, there was no information included

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<sup>2</sup> ICA § 282.18(4)(a).

<sup>3</sup> ICA § 282.18(5).

in the application in order to evaluate a possible serious health condition that the Linn-Mar school district could not adequately address. Based on the record of evidence, Linn-Mar Community School District's decision was correct and must be affirmed.

### ORDER

The decision of the Linn-Mar Community School District Board of Directors made on August 4, 2025, denying the open enrollment request on behalf of O.R. is affirmed.

Dated this 13th day of October, 2025.



Kathleen M. O'Neill  
Administrative Law Judge

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Rebecca Griglione, Rachel Bosovich, Jennifer Cira-Debban, DOE, (by AEDMS)

### APPEAL RIGHTS

Any adversely affected party may appeal a proposed decision to the state board within 20 days after issuance of the proposed decision.<sup>4</sup> An appeal of a proposed decision is initiated by filing a timely notice of appeal with the office of the director. The notice of appeal must be signed by the appealing party or a representative of that party and contain a certificate of service.<sup>5</sup> The requirements for the notice are found at Iowa Admin. Code r. 281-6.6(4). Appeal procedures can be found at Iowa Admin. Code r. 281-6.6(5). The board may affirm, modify, or vacate the decision, or may direct a rehearing before the director or the director's designee.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 6.6(4).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> 281 IAC 6.6(6).

**Case Title:** IN RE: OPEN ENROLLMENT OF O.R., A CHILD BY AMANDA  
RUPRECHT, APPELLANT V. LINN-MAR COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
**Case Number:** 26DOE0006  
**Type:** Proposed Decision

IT IS SO ORDERED.

*Kathleen M. O'Neill*

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Kathleen O'Neill, Administrative Law Judge

**BEFORE THE IOWA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In re Open Enrollment of O.R., a child,	)	
Amanda Ruprecht,	)	
	)	
Appellant,	)	Case No. 26DOE0006
	)	DE Admin Doc. No. 5228
vs.	)	
	)	FINAL DECISION
Linn-Mar Community School District,	)	
Respondent.	)	

On October 13, 2025, the administrative law judge issued a proposed decision, which affirmed the Respondent's decision in this matter. The time to appeal the proposed decision has passed, and no appeal was filed. The proposed decision is adopted, as written. Iowa Admin. Code r. 281-6.6(3). PROPOSED DECISION ADOPTED; RESPONDENT'S DECISION AFFIRMED.

**This is final agency action in a contested case proceeding.**

**Any party that disagrees with the Department's decision may file a petition for judicial review under section 17A.19 of the Iowa Administrative Procedure Act. That provision gives a party who is "aggrieved or adversely affected by agency action" the right to seek judicial review by filing a petition for judicial review in the Iowa District Court for Polk County (home of state government) or in the district court in which the party lives or has its primary office. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within thirty days of this action, or within thirty days of any petition for rehearing being denied or deemed denied.**

Dated: December 4, 2025

Iowa State Board of Education, by:

John Robbins, President

CC by certified mail to parties and counsel