

ALEC EXPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda-underwritten by global corporations—includes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With **ALEC EXPOSED**, the Center for Media and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

ALEC's Corporate Board —in recent past or present

- AT&T Services, Inc.
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 - UPS
 - Bayer Corporation
 - GlaxoSmithKline
 - Energy Future Holdings
 - Johnson & Johnson
 - Coca-Cola Company
 - PhRMA
 - Kraft Foods, Inc.
 - Coca-Cola Co.
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 - Intuit, Inc.
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 - Reynolds American Inc.
 - Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
 - Salt River Project
 - Altria Client Services, Inc.
 - American Bail Coalition
 - State Farm Insurance
- For more on these corporations, search at www.SourceWatch.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "unison" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. **DO YOU?**

Home → [Model Legislation](#) → Education

The Open Enrollment Act

Did you know that an online for-profit school company was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

Summary

The Open Enrollment Act stipulates that a student may, with the assistance of the state, attend any public school in the state. The legislation allows the parents of the student to apply for attendance in any nonresident school. The nonresident school district would advise the parent within an established time whether the application was accepted or rejected. The nonresident school district would be obligated to adopt standards for consideration of such applications. Acceptance or rejection could not be based on previous academic achievement, athletic activities, physical conditions, proficiency in the English language, gender, national origin or race, unless necessary to ensure compliance with a desegregation plan.

Provisions are made for transportation within the nonresident district and, under some circumstances, within the resident district. State aid follows the transferring student from the resident to the nonresident district. State funds are thus used to facilitate the expansion of educational choice available to the student and the parent.

Model Legislation

Section 1. {Purpose.} The Purpose of this Act is to improve educational achievement and to enhance the opportunity for parental choice in education by providing additional options to pupils in the state to enroll in public schools in school districts throughout the state without regard to pupil residence.

Section 2. {Establishment.} The state educational agency shall establish an enrollment options program to enable pupils residing in the state to attend public schools in school districts other than the ones in which they reside.

Section 3. {Application procedures.}

(A) The parent of a pupil wishing to attend a school in a nonresident school district shall submit an application to the nonresident district.

(B) The parent shall submit the application for a particular school year at a time set and on a form provided by the state educational agency. The parent may request a particular school.

(C) Upon agreement of the resident and nonresident districts, the deadlines in Subsection (B) may be waived.

Section 4. {Desegregation plan(s).} A school district that has a desegregation plan approved by the State educational agency, by a court, or by the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, may, in accordance with regulations of the state educational agency, limit the number of pupils who transfer into (or out of) the district under this Act if necessary to ensure compliance with the plan.

Section 5. {Basis for decision.}

(A) A school district shall adopt specific, written standards for acceptance and rejection of applications under this Act. Standards may include consideration of the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building. Subject to Subsection (B), standards may not include consideration of a pupil's previous academic achievement, physical condition, proficiency in the English language, sex, national origin, or race, except where necessary in accordance with Section 4.

(B) In considering an application under this Act, a nonresident school district may apply its usual requirements for admission to a magnet school or a program designed to serve the gifted and talented.

Section 6. {Nonresident district procedures.} Within 60 days of receiving an application under Section 3, a nonresident district shall notify the applicant parent and the resident district in writing whether the application has been accepted or rejected. If an application is rejected, the district shall state in the notification the reason(s) for its rejection.

From CMD: This "model" legislation would allow a student to apply to attend any school in the state, even outside of the district in which his or her family resides. It would also require the government to pay for the costs of transporting students to any schools within his or her own district even if it is not the nearest school. The "open enrollment" program was an early alternative to private voucher programs and is now available in many states.

Section 7. {Transportation.}

(A) If requested by the parent of a pupil participating in the program under this Act, the nonresident district shall provide transportation within that district. The state educational agency shall reimburse the nonresident district for the costs of this transportation.

← No apparent concern for increased costs....

(B) A resident district shall reimburse the parent for the costs of transportation from the pupil's residence to the border of the nonresident district if the pupil is from a family whose income is at or below the poverty level as determined by the regulations of the state educational agency. The state educational agency shall reimburse the resident district for the costs of this transportation.

Section 8. {Graduation.} A district serving a nonresident pupil under this Act shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded to that pupil by another district and shall graduate a nonresident pupil if the pupil meets the nonresident district's own graduation requirements.

Section 9. {Information.} In order to enable a parent to make an informed decision about enrollment options under this Act, each school district shall make available information about the district, its schools, programs, policies, and procedures. The state educational agency shall promulgate regulations regarding the information that a district must make available, including objective data on individual school achievement levels and (in the case of secondary schools) drop-out and graduation rates.

Section 10. {State aid.} The State educational agency shall reallocate state education aid between the resident and the nonresident district, as follows:

(A) Any state aid that is now allocated on a per-pupil basis shall be allocated to the district which a pupil actually attends.

(B) For each type of state aid not now allocated on a per-pupil basis, the state educational agency shall review the average effects of a single pupil's transfer on the costs which that type of aid is meant to defray for both the resident and the nonresident district. After such review, the state educational agency shall promulgate a formula that results in an equitable allocation to both districts.

Section 11. {Definitions.} As used in this Act:

(A) The term "school" means a school that is operated by a public school district and that provides elementary or secondary education in accordance with state law.

(B) "Parent" means the natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a dependent child.

Section 12. {Severability clause.}

Section 13. {Repealer clause.}

← Were your laws repealed?

Section 14. {Effective date.}

ALEC's Sourcebook of American State Legislation 1995

Related Files

[The Open Enrollment Act](#) (Microsoft Word Document)

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