ALIGNED

Every. Student. Prepared.

Aligned Analysis:

Open enrollment bill establishes transfer procedures to nonresident districts for public school students

Summary of HB 1814 (Pollitt)

HB 1814 creates a process that would allow students to enroll in districts other than where they reside.

The first section of the bill contains a provision that permits a student to enroll in **any public school district where the parent or guardian owns agricultural or residential property and pays taxes on that property**. If the district the student wishes to attend is not the student's resident district, the family must notify the district of residence of the student's intention to enroll in another district.

All other sections of the bill explain the details of the "**Public School Open Enrollment Act**." School districts may choose to participate to receive students for open enrollment, but participation is not required.

Participating school districts must have a policy that explains their conditions for acceptance of a transfer student, such as class size limitations or district diversity plans (i.e., participation in a voluntary desegregation plan).

Students may not be accepted or rejected based on academic achievement, athletic ability, disabilities, English proficiency level, or disciplinary action other than suspension or expulsion.

Districts will admit transfer students on a **first-come, first-served basis**, except preference may be given to siblings of nonresident students already enrolled in the district. In addition, no district can prevent a student from transferring out of the resident district and into a district that has chosen to receive open enrollment students.

The bill provides details addressing application deadlines, responsibilities of school districts and applicants, requirements for participation in athletics or extracurricular activities, and services for students with disabilities.

The bill creates the "**Parent Public School Choice Fund**" to reimburse parents of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch for transportation expenses in getting to the school district of transfer. The bill asks for a $60 million appropriation to support the fund. In addition, there is an option for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to increase their annual budget request if extra funds are needed.

Aligned testified in support of this bill as introduced,