



In Iowa, families may choose to enroll their children in a school district outside their attendance area through the state's open enrollment program. The Hudson Community School District has been a popular destination for many of these families. Below are some common myths about the program and the facts behind them:

MYTH — VS — FACT

MYTH

Open enrollment costs the Hudson Community School District money because those families do not pay local property taxes.



FACT

While it's true that open enrolled families do not pay property taxes in the district, Hudson CSD receives more per-pupil state funding when it serves a larger number of open enrolled students.

Currently, the district **receives \$7,577 per student**, including for those we serve through open enrollment. In other words, this funding follows students to the district they attend. Our district will see **more than \$1 million in revenue** generated by open enrollment in the 2022-23 school year alone.

Accepting open enrolled students does not lead to higher local property taxes.

MYTH

Open enrollment negatively impacts opportunities for resident students.



FACT

Accepting more students and the funding that follows them allows the district to continue to provide the exceptional academic, extracurricular, and co-curricular programs for which we've become known. Open enrollment has **enabled us to expand staffing and programs** over the last several years, while many Iowa districts have been forced to make reductions.

MYTH

Open enrollment has caused the district's space and facilities needs.



FACT

The improvement projects at Hudson High School would be necessary, even if we had no open-enrolled students. Our facility needs are mostly related to things like outdated building systems and aging infrastructure, creating more secure entrances, and converting underutilized space into classrooms.

In some ways, a school is like an airplane. It doesn't matter if the plane is 100% full or half full—it still needs to be in a condition in which it can get from point A to point B. The same is true for our schools. They **need to be in a condition conducive to student learning**, no matter how many students are in each classroom.

