

Jackson Heights Schools

- **North Jackson Heights Schools USD 335**
- **Jim Howard, Superintendent of School, jimhoward@jhcobras.net, Cell 620-214-9447**
- **SB 387 providing for continued enrollment of students who attended a district of nonresidence in 2023-2024**
- **March 4th 2024**

Chairwoman Williams and Members of the House K-12 Education Budget Committee:

The key aspect we seek in this bill is the clarification that nonresident students attending our school during the 2023-2024 academic year shall be permitted to continue their enrollment until graduation from high school, unless they are found to be no longer in good standing.

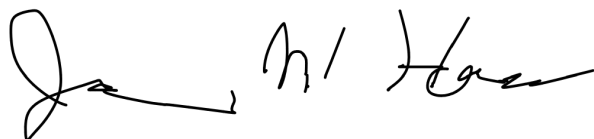
This provision is particularly vital for North Jackson USD 335 due to our current enrollment dynamics. Presently, we have approximately 130 students enrolled from out-of-district who have been a part of Jackson Heights throughout their academic careers. This constitutes a significant 25% of our total enrollment. Additionally, there are 110 students from Wetmore who are currently enrolled as out-of-district students.

As a result, 47% of our total enrollment is comprised of students from outside our district. Passage of SB 387 would not only bring clarity to our current situation but also align with what we believe to be the original intent of the open enrollment legislation – that nonresident students who have been attending a school should not be subject to a lottery if applications exceed capacity.

I urge you to consider the Senate Committee amended SB 387 to include provisions such as requiring the reason for nonacceptance to be provided to parents by July 30th and establishing an appeal process. Additionally, it states that neither the resident district nor the receiving district is obligated to provide transportation to nonresident students unless otherwise mandated by applicable law. I urge you to consider the significant impact this bill would have on schools like ours and the students who have become integral parts of our community. Your support for SB 387 is crucial in ensuring fairness and continuity in the education of these nonresident students.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available for any further clarification or discussion on this matter.

Sincerely,



JH