

Jackson Heights Schools

- **North Jackson Heights Schools USD 335**
- **Jim Howard, Superintendent of School, jimhoward@jhcobras.net, Cell 620-214-9447**
- **HB 25114, HB 2514, providing for continued enrollment of students who attended a district of nonresidence in 2023-2024**
- **January 25, 2024**

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

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2514, specifically highlighting the crucial provisions in Section 2 that address the clarification of open enrollment legislation. As the Superintendent of North Jackson USD 335, I believe that the passage of HB 2514 is of paramount importance for our district and other similar institutions across the state.

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.

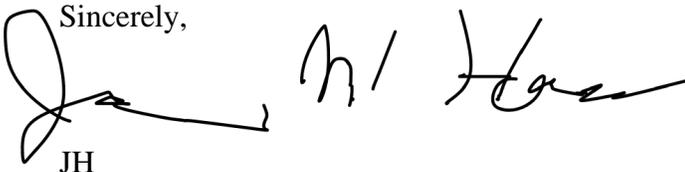
This provision is particularly vital for North Jackson USD 335 due to our current enrollment dynamics. Presently, we have approximately 130 students enrolled from out-of-district who have been a part of Jackson Heights throughout their academic careers. This constitutes a significant 25% of our total 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 HB 2514 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 significant impact this bill would have on schools like ours and the students who have become an integral part of our community. Your support for HB 2514 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