



**Premier
DeKalb County School System**

**NCLB Public School Choice Program
Based on Adequate Yearly Progress**

2009-2010



Open Enrollment Dates

July 13, 2009 – August 3, 2009

William Bradley Bryant Center

2652 Lawrenceville Highway

Decatur, Georgia 30035

9am-4pm

Application Deadline

August 3, 2009



3770 NORTH DECATUR ROAD
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30032-1099
678-676-1200 · WWW.DEKALB.K12.GA.US

CRAWFORD LEWIS, Ph.D.
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July 2009

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) requires that parents/guardians who have children attending schools identified as needing improvement to be notified of the school's academic achievement. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under NCLB. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is one of the cornerstones of the NCLB Act. It is a measure of year-to-year student achievement on statewide tests. Title I schools that do not meet the State standard for AYP in the same subject for two or more consecutive years are placed in Needs Improvement (NI), and certain opportunities are available to parents of children who attend those schools.

Some of the provisions in NCLB apply to your child's school. Your child's school has been identified as being in "Need of Improvement". One of the most highly publicized provisions of NCLB is that students in "Need of Improvement" schools may apply for a transfer to another school in the district that is not designated as in "Need of Improvement". The receiving NCLB Public School Choice schools meet the federal requirement and are representative of school choice options afforded in the northern, central, and southern region of the district. If you would like to apply for a transfer for the upcoming school year, you must complete the "NCLB Public School Choice Application", which will be made available via DeKalb's website (www.dekalb.k12.ga.us) and the NCLB summer enrollment location (William Bradley Bryant Center, 2652 Lawrenceville Hwy., Decatur, GA 30032; 9am-4pm daily) on July 13, 2009. In addition, a brochure will be mailed to you, inclusive of an application and other pertinent information pertaining to the NCLB Public School Choice application process. **All NCLB Public School Choice transfer requests must be completed during the enrollment period, July 13 – August 3, 2009. Proof of residence will be required with the NCLB Public School Choice application in the form of a current water, power, gas, mortgage, or lease document in the parent's name.** Per NCLB regulation, public school choice applications will be prioritized by: 1st – low income and 2nd – lowest academic performance. Per acceptance of the school choice afforded, your child may attend the new school until he/she has completed the highest grade in the school. If you choose for your child to remain at his/her home school, no action on your part is required.

For parents who are able to pay for or provide a means of transporting their child to their school of choice, the DeKalb County School System will:

- Reimburse the parent for transporting the student to the receiving school if the student is transferring from a Title I school. The federal per diem rate is **.055** per mile, round trip, from the child's home to the choice school and round trip from the child's choice school to the child's home. Each quarter your child's attendance will be verified and the mileage computed. Parents selecting this option will be required to submit a **DeKalb County School System Vendor Information Form**, included with this letter, at the time of registration. Parents will be mailed reimbursement checks on a quarterly basis. A transportation reimbursement payment schedule will be mailed to all parents once the vendor information sheet is received.

For parents who are unable to pay for or provide a means of transporting their child to their school of choice, the DeKalb County School System will:

- Provide public transportation Marta cards for transportation to the school of choice.

A second option available to students from low-income families is Supplemental Educational Services (SES) or free tutoring. Parents of students from low-income families have the choice of either the Public School Choice option or the Supplemental Educational Services option. If you take advantage of NCLB Public School Choice, you will not be eligible for SES. More information regarding Supplemental Educational Services or free tutoring will be sent to parents of eligible students by U.S. mail, as well as, SES Brochure, SES Providers Fairs, DeKalb's website (www.dekalb.k12.ga.us), and Flyers by October 2009. If you have any questions about the Supplemental Educational Services or free tutoring process, please contact Dr. Linda Crowley by telephone at (678) 676-0309.

We want to continue serving your child and will use all the resources available to DeKalb County School System to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that you will participate in developing our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you are interested in additional information regarding the Public School Choice option of NCLB, contact Dr. Cleophas Jones at (678) 676-0381 or Dr. Linda Crowley at (678) 676-0309.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education.

Sincerely,

Crawford Lewis

Crawford Lewis, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Schools That Must Offer NCLB School Choice

Avondale Middle School

Lithonia Middle School

Salem Middle School

Columbia High School

Cross Keys High School

What is the purpose of the School Choice Option?

The *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001*, provides students enrolled in a school, identified as *Not Achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)* for two consecutive years in the same subject area, the option to transfer to another public school in the school district that has not been identified as *Needs Improvement*. Students enrolled in a school identified as *Needs Improvement* are given the option to transfer to another public school in the district.



How are students selected?

All NCLB Choice applications are prioritized by:

1st Low Income

2nd Achievement/Performance Level

- **Proof of residence is required; current mortgage or lease document, or utility bill (water, gas, or electric bills only). Must be in the parent's name, match the home attendance school, and be aligned with application.**

Parents of Private School/Homebound/Out-Of-District students must provide:

1st Low Income – Official documentation from student's prior school verifying low income status (Free/Reduced lunch) if applicable

2nd Achievement/Performance Level – Official documentation from student's prior school verifying current standardized test scores or high school GPA

- **Proof of residence is required; current mortgage or lease document, or utility bill (water, gas, or electric bills only). Must be in the parent's name, match the home attendance school, and be aligned with application.**

Will transportation be provided?

The law states that "the school district must provide transportation or provide for transportation for students whose home school is a Title I Needs Improvement school." For parents who are able to pay for or provide a means of transporting their child to their school of choice, the DeKalb County School System will reimburse the parent for transporting the student to the receiving school if the student is transferring from a Title I school. The federal per diem rate is **.055** per mile, round trip, from the child's home to the choice school and round trip from the child's choice school to the child's home. Each quarter your child's attendance will be verified and the mileage computed. Parents selecting this option will be required to submit a **DeKalb County School System Vendor Information Sheet**, included with this letter, at the time of registration. Parents will be mailed reimbursement checks on a quarterly basis. A transportation reimbursement payment schedule will be mailed to all parents once the vendor information sheet is received. For parents who are unable to pay for or provide a means of transporting their child to their school of choice, the DeKalb County School System will provide public transportation Marta cards for transportation to the school of choice. **(Only one NCLB Public School Choice transportation option is available and will be decided by the parent at the time of registration)**. If your child's home school is no longer in "Needs Improvement" (NI) status, then transportation reimbursement will be terminated. Should the school system anticipate it will not have sufficient funds to provide transportation to all eligible students requesting a NCLB Public School Choice transfer, priorities will be set by: 1st – low income and 2nd – lowest academic performance.



Will a Special Education School Choice Option be granted?

A School Choice Option request for students receiving Special Education Services will be consistent with the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The Office of School Improvement and Principal in the student's current school will verify this information with the Department of Support Services.

Which schools are available to receive students per NCLB Public School Choice Option?

Elementary Schools NCLB Choice Options:

- Clifton Elementary
- Evansdale Elementary
- Hambrick Elementary
- Medlock Elementary

Middle Schools NCLB Choice Options:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Columbia Middle | 6 th , 7 th and 8 th Grades |
| • Peachtree Charter Middle (50 seats) | 8 th Grade Only |
| • Redan Middle | 6 th , 7 th and 8 th Grades |
| • Sequoyah Middle | 6 th , 7 th and 8 th Grades |

High Schools NCLB Choice Options:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Chamblee High School (50 seats) | 9 th and 10 th Grades Only |
| • Redan Annex @ Elizabeth Andrews High School – (Open Campus) | 9 th and 10 th Grades Only |
| • Southwest DeKalb Annex @ McNair High School | 9 th and 10 th Grades Only |
| • DeKalb High School of Technology South | 11 th and 12 th Grades Only |
| • Redan High School (50 seats) | 11 th and 12 th Grades Only |
| • Stephenson High School | 11 th and 12 th Grades Only |

NCLB Public School Choice Annex Options:

An annex site is an extension of an assigned school offering students the same academic opportunities received by the school's student population. The annex named will have made Adequate Yearly Progress. The annex administrators and instructors are staff members from the assigned school sites. Students' records and test data will be transferred to the assigned school site.

NCLB Public School Choice and AYP

DeKalb County School System

(Frequently Asked Questions)

1. What is the purpose of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Public School Choice provision?

The NCLB Public School Choice provision offers a student enrolled in a public school that is identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring an opportunity to attend a public school that has not been so identified, and that said school having made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) according to federal and state statutes.

2. How is it determined if a school is making Adequate Yearly Progress?

Federal and state determinations of AYP are made based on three requirements: 1. Each subgroup of students (ethnic categories, students with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and socioeconomic status) must meet or exceed the state's annual measurable objectives regarding the percentage of students scoring proficient on the state assessments Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) and Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT); 2. Each subgroup must have at least a 95% participation rate on state assessments; and 3. Each school must show progress on another academic indicator such as attendance or graduation rate.

3. When must a school system offer NCLB Public School Choice to eligible students?

Each summer, the Georgia Department of Education provides the school system with information about schools that did not make AYP, based upon elementary and middle school CRCT and high school GHSGT results. The school system notifies parents of these results, and offers NCLB Public School Choice to parents whose child(ren) attend a public school that has been identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring prior to the beginning of the school year.

4. The majority of students at my child's school seem to be meeting or exceeding expectations on the CRCT or GHSGT, yet the school has been designated as being in "Need of Improvement" (NI). Why is my child's school indicated as such? For which students must a school system offer NCLB Public School Choice?

The majority of students at a school may be meeting or exceeding expectations on the CRCT or GHSGT. However, if even one of its 10 subgroups does not make AYP in accordance with the federal and state statutes, the school would be assigned NI status.

5. If my child attends a school that must offer NCLB Public School Choice, what are the eligibility requirements and what is the procedure for the transfer?

All students enrolled in schools identified as NI are eligible to transfer to another school that is not in NI status. Parents will be notified of the NCLB Public School Choice open enrollment period and procedures via letter, and must successfully complete the application process during that time frame. Parents may choose from a list of schools the district will provide. Completed applications are to be submitted to the school system's Office of School Improvement by the deadline. Per NCLB regulation, applications will be prioritized by: 1st – low income, and 2nd – low academic performance.

6. What should I consider when making the choice decisions?

Information about the following topics should be considered when making the NCLB Public School Choice decision: 1. School climate; 2. Academic achievement results, including achievement by subgroups; 3. Opportunities for parental involvement activities; 4. Program offerings matching the needs of your child; 5. Individual school hours; 6. Distance to new school and the length of time on the school bus. Contact your child's school for more information to help with your decision.

7. When do I have to make the decision whether or not to exercise NCLB Public School Choice?

The decision to transfer a child to a NCLB Public School Choice must be made by the deadline set by the county, which is included in the notification letter concerning NCLB Public School Choice. If during the school year, the parent decided that the child should return to the home school, the child may be reenrolled in the home school at any time. Transportation reimbursement will be terminated.

8. What do I do if I don't want my child to leave the school he/she is now attending?

No action is required on behalf of the parent if you choose for your child to remain at his/her home school.

NCLB Public School Choice and AYP

DeKalb County School System

(Frequently Asked Questions)

- 9. Is a school system required to provide transportation to schools of choice?** For students whose home school is a Title I school, a school system must provide or pay for the provision of transportation to and from the school of choice.
- 10. For how long must students who change schools be allowed to attend their school of choice?**
If an eligible student exercises the option to transfer to another public school, a school system must permit the student to remain in that school until he/she has completed the highest grade in the school, although the student is not required to remain in the school of choice through the highest grade. However, a school system is no longer obligated to provide transportation for a student if the student's (Title I) school of origin is no longer identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.
- 11. What does the law mean when it says that a school system shall “give priority to the lowest achieving children from low-income families?”** If not all students can attend their first choice of schools, a school system will give first priority in assigning spaces to the lowest-achieving low-income students.
- 12. In applying the priority for the lowest-achieving students from low-income families, how does a school system determine which students are from low-income families?** The statute requires that a school system determine which students are from low-income families using the same data that they use in allocating Title I funds to schools.
- 13. How does a school system determine which students are lowest-achieving?** A school system may rank order students from low-income families based on objective educational measures, such as results from State assessments.
- 14. Must students with disabilities be offered the same transfer options as non-disabled students?** A school system must offer Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-eligible students with disabilities and those covered under Section 504 the opportunity to be educated in a school that has not been identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. However, a school system is not required to offer students with disabilities the same choices of schools as it offers to nondisabled students. In determining the choices available to students with disabilities, the school system should match the abilities and needs of a student with disabilities with those schools that have the ability to provide accordingly.
- 15. May a school system deny a student transferring under the public school choice provisions the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports in his/her school of choice?** If a school system has a general policy that requires all students who transfer under any choice option within the school system to “sit out” from interscholastic sports for a specified period of time after the transfer, then the school system may apply that policy to students who transfer under the NCLB Public School Choice provisions.

Vendor Information Sheet

Submitted By

OFFICE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Date:

Have you received a NCLB transportation reimbursement prior to this school term?

Yes

No

NAME



ADD



CHANGE

PLEASE PRINT

Only one (Parent/Guardian) name please.

Vendor (Parent/Guardian) Name

All Student(s) Name

School Attending

ADDRESS

Street Address

Apartment #

Payment mailing address if
different than street address

City, State, ZIP

GA

VENDOR DESCRIPTION

You must indicate below whether this vendor is providing products or services and a brief description.

Services

Description

NCLB School Choice 2009-2010 Transportation Reimbursements
Enrollment period: July 13 - August 3, 2009

PARENT DISCLAIMER

This Vendor Information Sheet is being completed prior to your choice to accept or decline your afforded No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Public Choice School Option. Should you decline the school choice afforded to you, the Vendor Information Sheet is nonapplicable and reimbursement does not apply. Should you accept the school choice option afforded to you, you will be required to complete a Transportation Agreement, and your reimbursement for mileage to and from the school will be at the current federal per diem rate. The transportation reimbursement payment will be rendered to the parent/guardian completing the Vendor Information Sheet and accompanying Transportation Agreement. There will only be one payment per household.

As the parent/legal guardian of the above referenced student, I agree that all information is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Parent/Legal Guardian(s) Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Parent/Legal Guardian(s) Signature

Date

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Return by mail or hand deliver to: Office of School Improvement, 3770 North Decatur Road, Decatur GA 30032

This information is for NCLB School Choice 2009-2010 Travel Reimbursement ONLY

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DeKalb County Schools
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