

Descriptor Term:
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CHOICE TRANSFER

Descriptor Code:
4.3200

Legal References: No Child Left Behind Act, 20 U.S.C. 6316, 34 C.F.R. 200.37, -200.44; *Public School Choice Non-Regulatory Guidance*, U.S. Department of Education (January 14, 2009); G.S. 115C-36, -366, -367; *Giving Parents Options: Strategies for Informing Parents and Implementing Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services Under No Child Left Behind*, U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement (September 2007)

Cross References: 1.3100/4.3100 Parental Involvement; 4.2330 Assignment of Students Assignment

The board is committed to providing a quality education to all students in the school system, regardless of the particular school the student attends. Although all schools in the system strive for academic excellence, the board recognizes that some schools may need to improve to meet such standards. The board encourages parents to support and work with these schools to improve the educational opportunities provided.

The board believes that in most cases, a student should attend the school that serves his or her domicile. Under certain circumstances or conditions, however, the board provides parents the opportunity to request that their child attend a school outside of his or her attendance area (see policy 4.2330 Assignment of Students. Pursuant to federal and State Board of Education requirements, the board will offer school improvement choice transfers to eligible students as provided in this policy.

A. ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CHOICE TRANSFERS

Students enrolled in a Title I school that has not made adequate yearly progress for at least two consecutive years, under the No Child Left Behind Act, may transfer to an eligible transfer school. If it is not possible to offer school improvement choice to all students, then priority will be provided to the lowest achieving students from low income families.

B. SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE TRANSFERS

Eligible transfer schools are those schools that:

1. have not been identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring (as defined in the No Child Left Behind Act and State Board of Education policy);
2. are not considered persistently dangerous;
3. have a higher academic performance than the original school; and
4. have been designated by the superintendent to receive school improvement choice transfers.

C. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CHOICE TRANSFER PROCEDURES

The superintendent shall establish procedures to facilitate the transfer of students when a Title I school has been identified for school improvement. Such procedures will include the elements outlined below.

1. Notice must be provided to parents of the determination that their child attends a Title I school that has been identified for school improvement. Such notice must be provided no later than fourteen (14) calendar days before the first day of the next school year and, whenever practicable, should be provided before the end of July. The notice must be provided by personal letters as well as by other means, including newspapers and posters. Notice must also be provided on the school system website in accordance with policy 1.3100/4.3100 Parental Involvement. The notice must be in a comprehensive, easy-to-understand format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
2. Notice must be provided to parents that their student has the opportunity to transfer to an eligible transfer school that serves the student's instructional level.
3. The notification must identify those schools within the system that are eligible to receive school improvement choice transfers and will describe the performance and quality of the schools of choice. The school system has flexibility to determine which schools will comprise the range of alternatives for students eligible to transfer; however, the superintendent shall ensure that such alternatives provide students with the opportunity to obtain a better education. If the choices of eligible transfer schools available to parents have been limited, the notice also will include an explanation of why such limitations have been made.
4. If no schools in the school system are eligible to receive transfers, the notification must identify any other available options for school improvement choice transfers.
5. The notification must describe the process for parents to request transfers within fifteen (15) days of receiving notification of the school improvement choice transfer option, including the opportunity for parents to submit their preferences among the choices provided. Within five (5) days, parents will be notified of the final transfer school option. Parents will have five days to accept or reject this option.
6. The notification must include information about what happens if the parent declines the offer to transfer.
7. The superintendent or designee shall create a process to ensure that transfers are completed in no more than thirty (30) days from the date that the school is identified for school improvement.
8. The superintendent or designee shall ensure that a report of each student transfer made pursuant to this policy is provided to the local school board and the State Board of Education.

D. TRANSPORTATION

The school system shall provide transportation for students who decide to accept school improvement choice transfers. If funds available are insufficient to provide transportation to all students requesting transfer, the school system shall give priority to the lowest achieving eligible students from low income families. The school system will not provide transportation for students who remain at a school after the end of the school year in which a student's original school is no longer identified for Title I school improvement.

E. LENGTH OF TRANSFERS

Students who transfer to an eligible transfer school will be permitted to remain in the choice school until the students have completed the highest grade in the school. If the new school is placed in Title I school improvement, the student will have the option to move again to another school in the subsequent school year.

F. RESPONSIBILITIES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

Schools that receive students eligible for transfer shall ensure that students are enrolled in classes and other school activities in the same manner as all other students in the school. However, any board policies or other rules (such as North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules) that restrict the activities of students who transfer under other board policies also will be applied to students who receive school improvement choice transfers under this policy.