

**Policy 636: Public School Choice** 

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 05/08/2006 | **Last Revised Date:** 01/11/2016 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/11/2016

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), district students are eligible to transfer to another school if their school of origin has been identified as being in need of school improvement (not meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP) for a second year in a row), corrective action, or restructuring. Choice is also available to students enrolled in a school that has been determined to be persistently dangerous or if the student has been the victim of a violent crime on school property.

Public school choice will be offered to all students until the school is no longer identified for improvement. Students who transfer to another school as a result of school improvement may remain in that school until the student has completed the highest grade in the school.

This district will offer more than one (1) choice, if more than one (1) school, including charter and magnet schools, is eligible to receive students. The district will not disregard academic entrance requirements for students seeking to enroll in magnet schools.

Students may not transfer under school choice to schools that have been identified for needs improvement, corrective action, or restructuring, or identified as persistently dangerous.

If there are no schools to which students can transfer because all are in school improvement, there is only one (1) school in the district serving that grade, or due to the rural or isolated nature of the district, parents will be notified that the school is in need of improvement and that the students are eligible for school choice, but no choices are currently available. Parents will also be informed of the alternative of supplemental services for eligible students. This district will work with neighboring districts, to the extent possible, to establish a cooperative agreement which would allow inter-district choice.

**Section 1. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

**1.1** The district will mail information regarding school choice issues directly to all parents of impacted students well before the beginning of the school year. A reasonable deadline will be established by which parents must respond to the opportunity to exercise school choice. Parents must submit their decision regarding school choice in writing and the school will confirm receipt of the communication.

**Section 2. STUDENTS RECEIVING PRIORITY**

**2.1** All students must have the opportunity to exercise school choice if the school of origin is in needs improvement. However, the district shall give priority to the lowest achieving students from low-income families. The district will appoint a committee to determine how such prioritization will be applied. The committee may allow the lowest achieving low-income students first choice of schools, and give such students priority for transportation if available funds are limited. Students may be rank ordered within a group of low-income families by achievement levels as evaluated by an objective educational measure of student achievement. Students will not be rank ordered based solely on family income.

**Section 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL CHOICE**

**3.1** Final decision-making regarding the selection and enrollment of eligible students in school choice shall be at the discretion of the district after taking into account the parents' preferences of choices offered. To the extent practicable the district will respect those preferences in making decisions regarding provision of transportation as well as enrollment. Parents are not guaranteed their first choice of schools.

**Section 4. TRANSPORTATION**

**4.1** The district is responsible for paying all or a portion of the transportation necessary for the implementation of public school choice but not to exceed twenty (20%) percent of the Title I Part A allocation received by the district which may be spent on choice-related transportation and supplemental services. The district is no longer obligated to pay for transportation after the end of the school year in which the school of origin is no longer identified as being in need of improvement.

**Section 5. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**5.1** The district may offer students with disabilities different options for school choice than non-disabled students if determined necessary to meet their needs for a free, appropriate public education.

**Section 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**6.1** Reporting of the number of students and schools participating in public school choice shall be reported as required to the State Department of Education and in public reporting.

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**Supporting Links**

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) - <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/plus2DhNL9slshVM99dsW9cp1GhQ==>