



Richmond County School System Parent Annual Choice Notification Letter

July 1, 2009

To All Parents and Guardians of Students of the Richmond County School System

RE: House Bill 251 (2009) Public School Choice for 2009-2010 school year

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As the parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled in our school system, we are notifying you that under a new state law you may request to transfer your child to a public school in the Richmond County School System, other than the one to which your child is currently zoned, for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.

Parent Responsibilities

As a parent or guardian, you can request to have your child transferred to another public school within your school system of residence as long as the school system has determined that there is available classroom space at the school after all assigned students have been enrolled, including special needs students and other categories of exception. Please keep in mind that if you choose to transfer your child to another school in the system, the law requires you to assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of your child to and from the school as long as your child remains at that school.

For your convenience, the system's list of schools with available classroom space for the upcoming school year is posted on line on the Richmond County School System website. In order to process your request, you will need to complete and submit the attached "Transfer Request Form." Requests for transfers will not be accepted after the close of business on July 15, 2009. It should be noted that the Richmond County School System is currently under a desegregation Court Order which requires the Court to approve all attendance zone changes. The School System is requesting the Court to approve this transfer process as consistent with the oversight duties of the Court. Therefore, no transfer request will be approved until the Court Order is executed. However, we are asking that you meet the deadline stated herein so the School System can act expeditiously in the event that the Court allows this process.

Transfer requests will be reviewed and approved or denied on the basis of a lottery in the event a particular school has available space and the number of transfer requests exceeds the remaining available capacity. Once available classroom space is reached at a school, no more transfers will be accepted at that school. Since it is possible that you may not receive your first choice, you may indicate more than one choice on the Transfer Request Form available at this website.

If you have questions regarding this, please contact Dr. James Whitson, Deputy Superintendent, at 706-826-1310, ext. 3411.

Sincerely,

Dana T. Bedden, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

House Bill 251 (2009)
Public School Choice Framework

List of Schools with Space for Public Choice

The following schools have limited space at the date of posting this notice. Students new to the school zone, Choice students under NCLB, Special Education Scholarships, other approved and established exemptions and class size limitations may render a school ineligible to accept transfers prior to final approval.

The requesting parent or legal guardian is responsible for investigating and determining such impact on eligibility and thereafter make an individual decision about the consequences of accepting this permissive transfer. I also understand that transportation to and from school is my responsibility at my sole expense.

Elementary School(s) with capacity

- Craig-Houghton Elementary School
- A. Brian Merry Elementary School
- Jamestown Elementary School
- Hephzibah Elementary School
- Willis Foreman Elementary School

Middle School(s) with capacity

- Hephzibah Middle School
- Morgan Road Middle School
- Spirit Creek Middle School
- Tutt Middle School

High School(s) with capacity

- Hephzibah High School
- T.W. Josey High School
- Westside High School