



No Child Left Behind Public School Choice Fact Sheet

What is NCLB Public School Choice?

- No Child Left Behind, Title I, Part A gives parents the option to select a higher performing school for their child.

What is the purpose of Public School Choice?

- The purpose of choice is to provide all students in low-performing Title I schools identified for improvement the opportunity to access a high quality education as low performing schools are improving.

Which schools and districts are required to offer Public School Choice?

- Districts receiving Title I funds are required to make choice available to all students in Title I schools identified for improvement.

When must parents be informed that Public School Choice is available for their child?

- Districts are to notify parents of eligible children of the option to transfer their child to another public school not identified for improvement as far in advance as possible, but **no later than 14 calendar days before the start of the school year**. Notices to parents must:
 - (1) Inform parents that their child's current Title I school has been identified as in need of improvement and that their child is eligible to attend another public school;
 - (2) Inform parents their child may receive transportation to the school;
 - (3) Identify each public school (including charter schools) that parents may select;
 - (4) Explain why choice might be limited; and
 - (5) Include information on the academic achievement of the schools that the parent may select.

Who is eligible to participate in Public School Choice?

- All students enrolled in a Title I school identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring are eligible for choice options.
- Priority should be given to the lowest achieving children from low-income families if choices are limited.
- Students are eligible for school choice until the school is no longer on improvement.
- Eligible students who transferred may remain in that school until they have completed the highest grade in the school. Transportation is no longer required by Title I.

What if there are no schools to which students can transfer or the district does not have physical capacity within its schools to accept transfers?

- Parents must still be notified that their child's school is identified for improvement.
- Supplemental Educational Services may be made available to eligible children.
- Students may not be denied the option to transfer due to lack of capacity. When capacity is an issue, school officials must consider possible options i.e., redraw the district's attendance boundaries, establish a cooperative agreement with other districts in the area that are willing to accept transfers, or create new charter schools.

Which schools may be offered to students as transfer options?

- Other public schools not identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring should be offered for choice.
- Parents should be given more than one school from which to choose whenever possible.
- A "virtual school" is possible as long as that school is a public elementary or secondary school.

Note: The final decision on the school each child will attend is made by the district.

What funds are available to pay for choice-related issues?

- The district pays for or provides transportation to the new school if needed. A district may use its Title I funds or other allowable Federal, state, local or private resources.
- Districts must spend an amount equal to 20% of its Title I, Part A allocation to provide funding for either choice-related transportation and supplemental education services or a combination of both.
- If the cost of school choice transportation exceeds 5 percent of the Title I Part A, allocation, the district may not spend less than that amount on those services.

Who should be contacted if one has questions?

- Contact Christine Macy, KSDE, Title Programs and Services Education Program Consultant, 785-296-3287 or cmacy@ksde.org.