

**Carroll County Public Schools  
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)  
Public School Choice (PSC) Transfer Option  
2010-2011 School Year**

**Questions and Answers**

***What is the Public School Choice option?***

The public school choice option is one of several components of Title I reauthorization under the federal education law, *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), signed by President George W. Bush on January 8, 2002. The public school choice component of the law offers students enrolled in a Title I school identified for school improvement the option to request a transfer to another district school not identified for Title I school improvement. This opportunity will be referred to as a school choice transfer.

***How is a Title I school identified for school improvement?***

All public schools are expected to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is the measure of necessary annual improvement made by a school as evaluated by the state tests in reading and math. A school can be identified for improvement if only one (1) subgroup, with as few as five (5) students, fail to achieve standards on a Maryland School Assessment in reading or math. If a school received Title I funds and had not made AYP for two (2) consecutive years, the Title I school is identified for school improvement.

***How does a Title I school identified for school improvement exit Title I school improvement?***

When a Title I school is identified for school improvement, the school must make a positive performance score for two (2) consecutive years before it is no longer identified for school improvement.

***Are all students in a Title I school identified for school improvement eligible to request a school choice transfer?***

Students who are enrolled in Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades for the 2010-2011 school year are eligible to request a school choice transfer. Their parents must be informed of this option. Parents choosing to request a school choice transfer will have their transfer request processed as an out-of-district transfer. Parents will be given only one (1) opportunity each year to request school choice.

According to federal law, the local school system must give priority to the lowest achieving children from low-income families when providing this option to transfer to a district school not identified for Title I school improvement.

***Are parents able to request a school choice transfer to any school in the County?***

No. The schools chosen for school choice will be based on such factors as the number of school choice transfer requests received, available space at the appropriate grade level, student capacity, travel time, and the geographic region pattern for elementary, middle, and high schools.

***How will parents of students attending a school in Title I school improvement be notified?***

A letter will be mailed to the parents of students who are eligible for Public School Choice. Eligible students include Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth graders. New students will receive this letter as part of their registration packet.

***What are the priorities for approving a school choice transfer request?***

CCPS will use the following criteria for approving a school choice transfer requests:

**Category 1 -** Students who have demonstrated low academic achievement. Within this category, students receive or are eligible to receive free and/or reduced price meals are given priority consideration.

**Category 2 -** Students who are not low-achieving. Within this category, students receive or are eligible to receive free and/or reduced price meals are given priority consideration.

***What criterion is used to identify a student as low-income?***

A student is identified as low-income if he/she is eligible to receive free and/or reduced price meals in accordance with federal guidelines.

***What criterion is used to identify a child as low-achieving?***

A student is low achieving if he or she did not achieve at least a “proficient” score on the Maryland State Assessment in reading or math or did not meet achievement standards on other local and/or state assessments, or are performing at least one (1) grade below grade level in reading or mathematics.

***Why do some students receive priority consideration?***

Title I is a federal entitlement educational program for disadvantaged children. Schools are identified for participation based on the proportion of low-income students. Students receive services in their Title I school if they are identified as performing below grade level. Federal law states: “In providing students the option to transfer to another public school, the local educational agency shall give priority to the lowest achieving children from low-income families....”

***Will all school choice transfer requests be approved?***

Not necessarily. Only those school choice transfer requests received by the deadline will be reviewed and processed. Parents will be notified in writing of the decision made regarding their request. If the school choice transfer is denied, the parent will be informed of the decision and the appeal process. The Superintendent/designee will make every effort to transfer the lowest achieving, low-income students who request a transfer to their first choice of the two designated schools offered. However, this may not always be possible.

***If my child receives a school choice transfer, how will transportation be provided?***

Students will be transported by buses provided by the Carroll County Public Schools.

***How long can my child remain out-of-district at the school of choice?***

Students may stay at the school of choice until they complete the highest grade at the school. However, if the home school is no longer “in improvement”, parents are responsible for providing transportation.

***Will students who transfer from a school in Title I school improvement to another school not identified for school improvement receive the same level of services provided by the Title I program?***

No. Title I participating schools receive the supplemental support in addition to all the human and material resources provided by the school system.

***Who can I contact if I have more questions?***

You may contact Gregory Bricca, Director of Research and Accountability, at (410) 751-3068 for additional information.