

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.