

10 Frequently Asked Question about NCLB Public School Choice

1. How do students at a school qualify for school choice?

Title I schools that do not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for at least two years in a row come under what the Federal Government calls schools *In Needs Improvement (INI)* status. All students in elementary grades k-4, middle grades 6-7, and high school grades 9-11 who are enrolled in INI schools are eligible for school choice.

2. Must a parent choose to send their child(ren) to a different school?

No. Just because a school does not make AYP does not mean that children are not being successful and that progress in isn't being made. All of PPSD schools are working very hard to improve teaching and learning for all students. In addition, Title I schools have access to a variety of programs to help all children learn. Talk to your child's teacher or principal to find out more about the opportunities in the school.

3. When must a parent decide to select a different school?

PPSD will notify parents of eligible students of the option to transfer in June of each school year. Parents will be given the option to transfer *one time* upon receipt of the *Choice* notification letter and application. This allows for transportation routes to be developed and provides consistency in the child's educational environment.

4. Can a parent choose any school as a Choice site?

Parents can choose from other District schools that have made AYP, or schools that are not in INI status. A list of eligible transfer schools will be provided to parents of eligible students with the *Choice* letter and application.

5. How does the District determine priority for the order that students are accepted for Choice transfer?

NCLB federal law requires that students of greatest need be given the highest priority. Greatest need is determined by free/reduced lunch status and by academic performance on State assessments in math and reading. Students are rank ordered by achievement levels as determined by objective educational measures (such as the NECAP State assessment).

6. Will a parent always get their first choice location?

The District addresses preferences expressed by parents for specific schools starting with the lowest-achieving, low-income children when making transfer placements. Every attempt will be made to place the child at the school of first choice. However, priority for making transfers is given to students with the greatest need and is also dependent upon the number of available seats in the higher-performing schools. Therefore, students may be placed into any of the schools listed on as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choice on the transfer form.

7. How do parents accept a transfer?

Submission of the NCLB Choice Transfer Form is considered parental acceptance of the transfer. Transfers are automatically made into available seats in July. A written notification will be mailed to parents of transferred students indicating the new school of enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year.

8. If a parent does not get their first choice, can they decide to remain at their home school?

Remaining in the home school is always an option. However, when completing the transfer application, parents have the option to choose 3 schools to have their child to transfer into. Transfers will be made automatically into the first school that has an open seat, which may be either the 1st, 2nd or 3rd preference of the parent. Parents who wish to receive a transfer into only the 1st choice school should list only one school on the application.

9. If parents enroll their child at a Choice school, can they change their mind and move the child back to his/her home school?

No. Once the child attends the Choice school, he/she must remain in that school for the entire school year.

10. If a child completes the highest grade level offered at a Choice school, do they go on to the feeder middle or high school for that Choice school?

No. The child will return to their home middle or high school (unless a different Choice location is offered at that time).