



Public School Choice

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Public School Choice is a requirement under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law.

The goal of NCLB is to have every student achieving at grade level by 2014.

The key parts of the NCLB law require states to:

- Develop learning standards that say what students should know, understand and be able to do at different grade levels.
- Test students using standardized tests that hold schools accountable for student achievement.
- Offer families whose children attend low performing schools *Public School Choice* and Supplemental Educational Services (SES).
- Hire highly qualified teachers.
- Show the importance of parental involvement by requiring schools to have and use parental involvement policies and school-parent compacts.

What is public school choice?

Under the NCLB law, all schools must make adequate yearly progress (AYP), which is measured by the state standardized tests that students take. If a school does not make AYP for three years in a row, in the same subject and grade, the school is identified as being in **Improvement Phase Year 2**.

Parents of children who attend Title I Schools that are in **Improvement Phase Year 2** have choices.

Title I schools are schools that have high percentages of low income students. Ask the school if you are not sure if it is a Title I school.

You can ask for your child to be transferred to a higher performing public school in the same district.

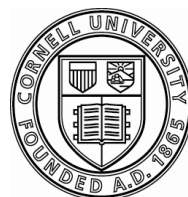
How will I know if public school choice is available?

Your school district is required to tell you before the beginning of the school year if public school choice is available. If you think your child may qualify, but you have not been told, check with the school principal.

Schools must offer school choice until the school is no longer *in need of improvement*.

If there are more transfer requests than available spaces for students in higher performing schools, the school district will give priority to students who are the most behind in reading or math.

Even if there are no other schools in the district for a student to transfer to, parents must still be told that the school is identified as *in need of improvement*. The district must provide *supplemental education services (SES)* such as tutoring or extra classes.



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What will our family have to do?

You will need to complete an application for your child to transfer to a different school. There will be a due date for the application, so be sure to check with the school.

The school district must provide transportation for students who transfer. However, the law says that the school district only has to provide transportation until the end of the school year in which your child's original school is no longer *in need of improvement*.

Tips for School Choice Options

It is up to your family to decide what is best for your child. You may choose to keep your child at his current school or to have him transfer to a new school. Here are some things you may want to do as you are making a choice:

- Think about what is best for your child and your family
- Find out information about each of the schools, such as what classes and activities does the school offer? Where is the school located? What is the average class size? How can parents be involved?
- Visit the schools

Here are some additional questions you might want to ask.

- What will the new school offer my child?
- How will the transportation work?
- What is my child's current school doing to make improvements?
- How can I help the district make improvements?

Visit the United States Department of Education's website for more resources on making school choices at www.ed.gov/nclb/choice.

Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) Families and Communities Together with Schools

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