

Aiken County Public Schools School Choice Options

The Aiken County School District is committed to providing all students quality educational opportunities in each of our schools. Part of that commitment is ensuring that our schools meet the varied needs of students and their parents. With that idea in mind, we offer several school choice options throughout the district. Described below are the options that are available.

Expanded Choice for Elementary Schools

This option allows parents of elementary age students to choose the elementary school they would like for their children to attend within the district. Because of building capacity an enrollment cap will be placed on each elementary school, which could limit the number of choice requests that can be honored. Bus transportation can only be provided to the school where each student is zoned. Parents will be responsible for transportation if they choose another school. The opportunity for parents to exercise this option for the 2011-2012 school year will be offered until March 11, 2011. Expanded choice requests should be directed in writing on the appropriate form to the Area Assistant Superintendent for the administrative area which includes the school of choice. Forms are available at each administrative area office and on the school district Website. Requests will be handled on a “first come – first served” basis.

Hardship

Parents of students in any school within the district may request in writing that a transfer be considered based on hardship. There are a variety of situations that qualify as hardship. These are evaluated on a case by case basis. Hardship requests should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent in the area where the student resides. Assistant Superintendents will accept hardship requests at the same time expanded choice requests are considered. Parents may contact administrative area offices for the proper application form. As with expanded choice for elementary schools, building capacity may require an enrollment cap. If approved, transportation to the school of choice is the responsibility of the parent.

No Child Left Behind

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), schools that receive federal Title I funding and do not make required achievement gains in any category for two or more consecutive years are required to offer parents the opportunity to choose other schools within the district that did make the required gains. Parents of the students in these schools will receive a letter in the mail prior to the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year explaining this option further.