

Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2014-2015 School Choice Plan

June 10, 2014

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- ◆ Addition/Deletion of language.

(1.) No Child Left Behind School Choice

In 1965, Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), providing, for the first time, significant federal funding for K-12 education. The original law has been reviewed eight (8) times, most recently by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. On February 9, 2012, the Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) ESEA Flexibility Waiver request was approved by the United States Department of Education. The waiver removed the requirements in ESEA section 1116(b) of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act for an LEA to identify for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring, as appropriate, a Title I school that fails, for two (2) consecutive years or more, to make AYP, and for a school so identified and its LEA to take certain improvement actions.

Previously under the NCLB Act, school districts were required to offer Public School Choice (PSC), the option to transfer to another public school, to students enrolled in Title I schools that were identified in need of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. The ESEA Flexibility Waiver removed the requirement that school districts offer PSC to newly identified students. However, the ESEA Flexibility Waiver requires school districts to allow students participating in PSC for the 2011-2012- 2014-2015 school year to remain in the choice school to the highest grade level. Parents who opt to continue placement of the Choice School must provide transportation.

~~The opportunity to obtain Supplemental Educational Services (SES) is another parental choice option. Under NCLB, school districts were required to make Supplemental SES (available for eligible students attending Title I schools that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) after one (1) year of school improvement (two (2) years of not making AYP). The ESEA Flexibility Waiver requires Florida to provide support to ensure continued improvement in all Title I Schools. As a result, school districts are required to comply with Florida law regarding the implementation of Supplemental Educational Services. According to Section 1008.331, Florida Statutes, school districts are required to offer SES to eligible students for the 2012-2013 school year. Students enrolled in a Title I school who scored a Level 1 or Level 2 on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) may have the opportunity to receive SES. These services are provided outside the regular school day and are designed to enable students to reach academic proficiency. Supplemental Educational Services offer eligible students the opportunity to participate in research-based educational programs in subject areas such as reading, language arts, and mathematics. Eligible families choose an SES provider from a state-approved list, and school districts pay for the tutoring services using federal funds. Students will be prioritized if there are not enough funds to offer services to all eligible students whose parents request the services.~~

(2.) Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Act School Choice

Appropriate exceptions and accommodations will be made to minimize the barriers related to student assignment for students identified as eligible for services through the Florida Department of Children and Family Services or Section 722 (d)(2) of the Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Act

- (a.) To the extent feasible, keep a homeless child or youth in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian;
- (b.) Provide written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal to the homeless child's or youth's parent or guardian, if the local educational agency sends such a child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian.

(3.) John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program

The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program is established to provide the option to attend a public school other than the one to which assigned, or to provide a scholarship to a private school of choice, for students with disabilities for whom:

- (a) An Individual Educational Plan (IEP) has been written in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education; or
- (b) A 504 accommodation plan has been issued under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.