

2015-2016 School Choice Plan

Summary of Changes

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Stewart B. McKenny-Bruce Vento Act School Choice ~~Choice~~ of Origin

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(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 school year to remain in the choice school to the highest grade level.

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 of Origin

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.

(d) Choice Zone 4:

1. Gulf Breeze Elementary
2. Oriole Beach Elementary
3. Gulf Breeze Middle
4. Gulf Breeze High
5. Navarre High
6. Holley Navarre Middle
7. Woodlawn Beach Middle
8. Holley Navarre Primary
9. Holley Navarre Intermediate
10. West Navarre Primary
11. West Navarre Intermediate

(2) Attendance Zones

In addition, the SRCSD would:

- (a) Maintain attendance zones for each school.
- (b) Implement the plan when it is determined by the SRCSB that the School Choice options of: the NCLB School Choice Plan, the Stewart B. McKinney- Bruce Vento Act, McKay Scholarship Program, and Parent Request for Transfer School Choice plans are not meeting the educational needs of the students of Santa Rosa County. The plan will be implemented in phases depending upon which zone is deemed in need.
- (c) Grandfather in all students enrolled at a school prior to the extension of Controlled School Choice to a zone.
- (d) Offer Choice to students entering kindergarten, middle school, high school or any district school for the first time.
- (e) Once assigned, guarantee placement in the school of choice through the highest level at that school.
- (f) Grant priority to students living in the attendance zone of a school.
- (g) Grant priority to students with parents claiming military preference.
- (h) Establish the student capacity for each school at 95% of student station availability based on the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) report or 90% capacity of core-class calculation per class size amendment guidelines.
- (i) Allow students to transfer to other schools in their choice zone through the request for transfer.
- (j) Allow students to transfer to out-of-choice-zone schools through the request for transfer process.

E. Transportation

- (1) Florida Statutes and Administrative Rules require that transportation be provided for students living more than two miles from their school of assignment.
- (2) Transportation will be provided for students assigned by the District to special programs such as Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and English Language Learners (ELL).
- (3) Transportation will be provided to the assigned school in the Controlled School Choice Zone with the exception of students who receive their school assignment through request for transfer or McKay Scholarships Program.
- (4) Transportation to a school outside the students assigned school zone is the responsibility of the parent.
- (5) Transportation will be provided for eligible students for whom school of origin service is determined to be in the student's best interest by the school district's McKinney-Vento Liaison.

F. Application Process

(1) No Child Left Behind School (NCLB) Choice

If a school is offering school choice due to NCLB requirements, parents of current students are notified via letter of their options regarding school choice with transportation. New students enrolling in a school which qualifies for NCLB School Choice are made aware of their option at the time of enrollment via information in the enrollment package. Applications are made available at the school site, the district office, and electronic copy.

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

If a parent informs the school or district (through the enrollment process) that they are claiming homeless status, or it is determined by the district from information provided by the parent (by the resident information survey completed annually) that the student could possibly be eligible for services relating to the *Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Act*, the student is referred to the Santa Rosa District School's Coordinator for Federal Programs program to coordinate services.

(3) McKay Scholarships Program

Every parent of a special needs child with an IEP that is being served in the SRCSB receives a letter each year from the SRCSB informing them of the McKay Scholarship Program. Parents also receive notification of the McKay Scholarship Program at every IEP meeting they attend. The parent initiates the application process by going on-line to the Florida Department of Education web-site and files a "Notice of Intent" to participate in the program at which point, the parent is contacted within 30 days of filing the intent by the District Contact person to review qualifications and assist in the application process.

(4) Parent Request for Transfer and Controlled School Choice Plans

Applications for Request for Transfer are available at every school site, district offices, and electronic copy. Deadlines if applicable are noted on the application form. Information regarding the School Choice through request for transfer is detailed in the "Student Progression Plan" or this document which can be located at each school site, district offices, or via the district web site. Parents are notified of approval or non-approval by the grade level directors within 30 days of submitting the completed required information.

(5) Virtual Instruction Program

Pursuant to 1002.45, F.S., Santa Rosa County public school students in grades KG-12 may participate in part-time or full-time virtual instruction programs. Open enrollment for both part-time and full-time virtual instruction programs will take place from April 15th 2013 through July 31st 2013 each year with late registration continuing through the first two weeks of the school year if space is available. Parents of students interested in participating in a full-time virtual instruction program must contact Patti Peacher, the Coordinator of Virtual Education Programs, at 850-981-7860, no later than the conclusion of the open enrollment period. Parents of students interested in participating in a part-time virtual instruction program, resulting in a hybrid schedule of virtual and brick and mortar classes, must contact their student's guidance counselor no later than the conclusion of the open enrollment period. Should the resulting hybrid schedule result in a student remaining at home for a period of the school day, parents shall be responsible for providing transportation to or from school, depending on the time of day the student will need to enter or exit his/her brick and mortar classes.

G. Application Timelines

Parents may choose at any time during the year to apply for the School Choice Programs available with the exception of Parent Request for Student Transfer. Parents may submit an application for a school transfer request beginning May 15th and ending June 15th each calendar year for the beginning of the subsequent school year. No applications will be accepted after June 15th for requests to start the school year unless the parent/student has established residence in Santa Rosa County after June 15th of the current year. Transfer determinations may not be made prior to