



Dr. Tim Dixon, Superintendent

Leon Coverson, Chairman | Vacant | Willie A. Hinton, Jr. | Seth McInvale, Interim Vice-Chair | Kay King

June 12, 2015

RE: HB 251 Public School Choice for School Year 2015-2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As the parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled in our school system, we are writing to notify you that under state law, HB 251, you may request to transfer your child to another public school in the Meriwether County School System for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. Please note that once your request has been approved, you **DO NOT** need to reapply until your child will be changing schools, such as leaving elementary school and going to an out of attendance zone middle school or from middle school to an out of attendance zone high school.

Parent Responsibilities

As a parent or guardian, you can request to have your child transferred to another public school within your school system of residence, as long as the school district has determined that there is available classroom space at the school after all assigned students have been enrolled. According to our past enrollment records and the extreme budget cuts we have faced over the past 6 years; many grades and/or classes in all of our schools are at or very near maximum capacity. Therefore, we will be unable to determine available space until after Labor Day. We must be able to accommodate the students, who live in each individual school's attendance zone, before we can allow any student to transfer into another school in a different attendance zone. As soon as we can determine available space, we will notify you if your request has been approved or denied. Until you are notified, no later than September 9, 2015 that your request has been accepted, your child **MUST attend the school in their attendance zone.**

Please keep in mind that if you choose to transfer your child to another school in the district and the request is approved, the law requires you to assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of your child to and from the school, as long as your child remains at that school. **For high school students who desire to transfer, please be aware that the Georgia High School Association rules will apply, and you will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular interscholastic competitive activities, such as sports, for one school year.**

For your convenience, the district's list of schools with **possible** available classroom space for the upcoming school year includes all of our schools. However, the vacancies are **NOT** in all grade levels. In order to process your request, you will need to complete and submit the Transfer Request Form, which may be downloaded from our website, cut out of the newspaper, or picked up at the Meriwether County Board of Education office in Greenville. **Requests for transfers will not be accepted after the close of business on July 10, 2015.** The Board of Education Office is closed on Fridays during the summer, our summer working hours are from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, and we will be closed the week of June 29th-July 5th.

Transfer requests will be reviewed and approved or denied on the basis of a lottery in the event a particular school has available space and the number of transfer requests exceeds the remaining available capacity. Once available classroom space is reached at a school, no more transfers will be accepted at that school. Since it is possible that you may not receive your first choice for an elementary school request, you may indicate a second choice on the Transfer Request Form.

If you have questions regarding this, please contact the Meriwether County School System. You may send an email to tim.dixon@mcssga.org please put HB 251 as the Subject of the email, or call 706-672-4297, ext. 100.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Dixon, Superintendent