

Carol L. Lane, Superintendent

Leon Coverson, Chairman | Robert Hawk, Vice-Chair | Willie A. Hinton, Jr. | Seth McInvale | Allen Parham

May 15, 2013

Meriwether County School System

2100 Gaston St., P.O. Box 70

Greenville, GA 30222

706-672-4297

RE: Georgia Special Needs Scholarship

Dear Parent:

As the parent of a student who receives special education in our school system, we wanted to let you know about your options to exercise public and private school choice. Under a new state law passed by the Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents of some students who receive special education may have certain options to *choose* to transfer their child to another public school or private school in Georgia.

### **Public School Choice Options**

A parent may request a transfer to another public school within the Meriwether County School District as long as there is available space at that school, the school has a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individual education program, and the transfer will not result in a violation of the current federal court that governs assignment of students to school within our School District. U.S.A. v. Ridley, et al. vs. State of Georgia, et al., (Meriwether County Bd. of Ed.), Civil Action No. 1:69-CV-12972-RCV (Order dated, October 21, 2004).

A parent may request a transfer to a school in another school system if there is available space and the system and school have a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individualized education program. A school system must agree to accept the student, however. If the parent chooses this option and the school system accepts the child, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to a school in that system.

The parent may also request a transfer to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a state school will depend on whether that setting is appropriate for the student's needs. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the state school. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a State School.



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### Private School Choice Option

If you are interested in transferring your child to a private school in Georgia, you may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the state of Georgia. For more information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and the parent application process, please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/>.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Lane

Superintendent