

## **Public School Choice**

Under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, Northampton County Schools has one school in School Improvement for 2009-10. Conway Middle School made academic progress (AYP) in 2008-09; however, Conway Middle School must make AYP two years in a row in reading to exit School Improvement.

Conway Middle School must offer the School Choice (transfer) option with free transportation to **all** 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled at the school. The students may request a transfer to Gaston Elementary School. Since the other school in the district with grades 7 and 8 did not make AYP, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students **cannot** be offered the School Choice (transfer) option.

The school system must offer free tutoring services to **all** students receiving free or reduced-price lunch. Eligible families of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades may transfer to another school or receive free tutoring services (SES), **but not both**.

The school system will have more information for parents on Supplemental Educational Services (free tutoring) when approved providers for tutoring services are identified. Students who receive free/reduced price lunch at Conway Middle School are eligible to receive free tutoring (SES).

### **What is Public School Choice?**

Schools that do not make AYP in the same subject for 2 consecutive years must offer parents the option to transfer to another public school. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal law requires Title I schools that haven't met state target goals for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two or more years to offer parents the option of transferring their children to other schools, if possible, under district guidelines.

### **Which schools must offer Public School Choice?**

Title I schools that have not made AYP for two consecutive years in the same subject (reading/language arts or mathematics) must offer public school choice, if a choice is available, beginning no later than the first day of school in the next year. The school, designated as a Title I School Improvement school, must then offer Public School Choice until it has made AYP for two years in a row. Non-Title I schools not making AYP do not have to offer Public School Choice.

### **Which students are eligible for the Choice option?**

All students who attend Title I School Improvement schools must be provided with an option, if available, to transfer to another public school not identified for School Improvement. Although all students from schools in School Improvement status are eligible, students who are the lowest performing and in the highest poverty have first priority when considering: 1) their first choice of school transfer options; and 2) who receives free transportation first, if demand exceeds the funding cap.

### **Will parents have unlimited Public School Choices?**

Districts determine which schools will comprise the public schools of choice. The schools of choice may not be Title I School Improvement schools.

**Must parents accept a choice option?**

Parents always have the option of declining a school choice and continuing at the home school.

**How long are students allowed to attend the school of their choice?**

A student who transfers to a choice school can remain at that school until he or she has completed the highest grade in the school. However, the school district is not obligated to provide transportation for the student after the end of the school year in which the home school is no longer identified for Title I School Improvement.

**\*\*A *Request for Transfer Form* was mailed to all currently enrolled students on August 6, 2009. All students enrolling after August 6, 2009 will receive a packet from their school upon enrollment. If you did not receive a packet, please contact your school.**

Read the articles below or contact your school for more School Choice

[Public School Choice Fact Sheet](#)

[Public School Choice: Quick Reference for Parents](#)

[Questions Parents Ask About Schools](#)