

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

6901 Charles Street Towson, MD 21204-3711

August 12, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

For the 2011-2012 school year, your child is scheduled to attend Lansdowne Middle School, a Title I school that has been identified as a Priority Comprehensive Needs school as identified by Differentiated Accountability. This determination is based on Maryland State Assessment (MSA) data by the Maryland State Department of Education. Because of this identification, Lansdowne Middle School must offer *Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option*. In an effort to assist you in making an informed decision regarding this option, the following questions and answers are provided:

Why has Lansdowne Middle School been identified as a Priority Comprehensive Needs school?

Under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*, schools must meet specific achievement targets in attendance, reading, and math. These annual improvement targets demonstrate if a school has made "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP). MSA data indicate that Lansdowne Middle School did not make AYP for three or more consecutive years in the same subject area.

What is *Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option*?

Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option allows families of students registered to attend Lansdowne Middle School (Grades 6-8) for 2011-2012 to transfer to a Baltimore County public school determined as eligible to receive students.

Which schools are eligible to receive students who access *Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option*?

The receiving schools for the 2011-2012 school year are Pikesville Middle School and Woodlawn Middle School. Annually, the system reviews its resources to make a determination as to which schools will be eligible to receive students. The receiving schools were chosen based on variables such as academic performance, bus ride time, and capacity.

Will your child have to transfer schools?

No. The decision to transfer or to remain at the home school is entirely up to each parent/guardian. Parents/guardians should base their decision on what they think is best for their child. Many factors should be considered, including the school academic program, availability of extended-day activities, availability of extracurricular activities, etc.

How does Lansdowne Middle School compare to the receiving schools?

MSA data indicate that Lansdowne Middle School did not meet AYP in the areas of reading and mathematics on the Maryland State Assessments (MSA). The chart below compares the percentage of students who scored advanced, proficient, and basic on the 2011 MSA for Lansdowne Middle School, the receiving schools, the Baltimore County Public Schools system, and state.

2011 MSA READING

GRADES	LANSDOWNNE		PIKESVILLE		WOODLAWN		BCPS		MARYLAND	
	% Prof/Adv	% Basic	% Prof/Adv	% Basic	% Prof/Adv	% Basic	% Prof/Adv	% Basic	% Prof/Adv	% Basic
6	67.1	32.9	78.6	21.4	67.6	32.4	82.3	17.7	83.8	16.2
7	72.3	27.7	82.4	17.6	76.6	23.4	83.0	17.0	84.0	16.0
8	73.2	26.8	78.9	21.1	71.5	28.5	83.6	16.4	82.7	17.3

2011 MSA MATHEMATICS

GRADES	LANSDOWNNE		PIKESVILLE		WOODLAWN		BCPS		MARYLAND	
	% Prof/Adv	% Basic	% Prof/Adv	% Basic	% Prof/Adv	% Basic	% Prof/Adv	% Basic	% Prof/Adv	% Basic
6	62.9	37.1	70.7	29.3	67.1	32.9	79.5	20.5	81.0	19.0
7	62.3	37.7	69.1	30.9	50.9	49.1	72.7	27.3	74.3	25.7
8	47.4	52.6	58.2	41.8	52.3	47.7	65.3	34.7	66.0	34.0

What is the Lansdowne Middle School staff doing to improve student achievement?

The School Improvement Team at Lansdowne Middle School is continuously analyzing school data to determine how to improve performance in reading and mathematics. Lansdowne Middle School staff continuously monitors and evaluates student performance in order to improve the school's academic program.

During the 2011-2012 school year, Lansdowne Middle School will be implementing the following strategies to further improve student achievement:

- Student progress monitored by State Curriculum objectives in Grades 6, 7 and 8;
- Use of Study Island computer program for skill development aligned to the state curriculum;
- Student recognition through PBIS program for academic achievement and positive behavior;
- After-school and Saturday MSA and HSA Prep Programs; and
- Professional development for teachers on effective instruction, differentiation, co-teaching, and technology.

What is Baltimore County Public Schools doing to increase student achievement?

The *Blueprint for Progress* provides clear direction for everyone involved in education in Baltimore County. The *Blueprint for Progress* is built on a foundation of clear standards, quality instruction, and individual accountability and is the basis for the Master Plan of the Baltimore County Public Schools. The Master Plan defines the actions the school system will take for continued improvement of achievement for all students. In addition, all students in BCPS receive instruction based on concepts in the State Curriculum. The Department of Professional Development and curriculum offices in collaboration with the Office of Title I provide professional development to assist teachers in developing the talents of students and provide each student access to a rigorous educational experience. Additionally, Lansdowne Middle School receives technical assistance from the assistant superintendents' office in the development and implementation of its School Improvement Plan.

What can parents/guardians do to help Lansdowne Middle School increase student achievement?

Parents/guardians can assist the efforts of the school by making sure that their children come to school on time every day, ready to learn. In addition, parents can check that all homework assignments and school projects are completed on time. Parents are encouraged to participate in parent education activities, attend

all parent-teacher conferences, and learn more about how to help their children at home and at school. Parents should tell teachers they want to hear from them as soon as problems occur so that they can work together to find solutions. A list of parent support services is available on the district's Web site: <http://www.bcps.org/parents/>.

How can parents/guardians find out more information?

Baltimore County Public Schools will be holding a meeting for parents/guardians at Lansdowne Middle School on **Wednesday, August 24, 2011 from 6:30 – 7:30pm**. During this meeting, school administrators and central office staff will discuss:

- What identification as Priority Comprehensive Needs means;
- The reason that MSDE identified Lansdowne Middle School as Priority Comprehensive Needs;
- What Lansdowne Middle School staff are doing to address student needs;
- What parents/guardians can do to help address the academic issues that led to identification;
- The two decisions families have to either remain at Lansdowne Middle School or request a transfer; and
- Information about the *Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option* process and timeline.

What is the due date for *Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option* applications?

Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option applications **ARE DUE ON September 16, 2011**.

How can parents/guardians obtain additional information if they cannot attend this meeting?

A *Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option* application is included with this letter and will be made available at Lansdowne Middle School. A Lansdowne Middle School staff member will be available to explain these documents. For more information about programs and services being offered at the school, you can contact Nicole Norris, Principal, at (410) 887-1411.

Additional information regarding the *Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option* is available on the Baltimore County Public Schools' Web site at <http://www.bcps.org/offices/titleone/> or you may contact the Office of Title I at (410) 887-3487.

Sincerely,

Angela Euculano-Leigh, Supervisor
Office of Title I

- C: Edward Newsome, Jr., Assistant Superintendent
Nicole Norris, Principal, Lansdowne Middle School
Maria Talarigo, Principal, Pikesville Middle School
April Jones, Principal, Woodlawn Middle School

Baltimore County Public Schools
Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option
APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL TRANSFER REQUEST

Please submit a
separate application
for each child in your
family

Lansdowne Middle School - 2011 – 2012 School Year (Window 2)
Students scheduled to attend Grades 6 through 8

*Completed applications should be submitted no later than **September 16, 2011** to:*

Office of Title I
Baltimore County Public Schools
6901 Charles Street, Building B
Towson, MD 21204

PART I: School Transfer Request (To be completed by parent/guardian – please print)

Name of Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____
First Name Last Name

School Attended 2010 – 2011 School Year: _____

Zoned School 2011-2012 School Year: _____

2011-2012 Grade: _____ Does the student receive special education services? Yes _____ No _____

Address: _____
Number Street Name City Zip Code

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
(circle one) First name Last Name

Home Phone # _____ Work Phone # _____ Other Phone # _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

PART II: Decision (To be completed by the Office of Title I)

_____ Approved

Denied for reason(s) of:

_____ Student not enrolled in sending school

_____ Application incomplete (see attached document)

_____ Application late

_____ Request/reason inconsistent with procedures

Signature of Title I Representative _____ Date _____

Appeals: Must be submitted in writing within 10 calendar days of the date of this decision to:

Sonja Karwacki, Executive Director
Baltimore County Public Schools
6901 Charles Street, Building B
Towson, MD 21204

Student Name

Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option
APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL TRANSFER REQUEST

Lansdowne Middle School - 2011 – 2012 School Year (Window 2)
Students scheduled to attend Grades 6 through 8

INSTRUCTIONS: The two approved Baltimore County middle schools designated as eligible to accept students under *Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Options* are identified below.

Transfer requests are approved or denied based on Board Policy 5140 and Superintendent’s Rule 5140R and in accordance with the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

Parents/Guardians are asked to indicate, the schools they desire their child to attend in order of preference. Please place a “1” next to your first choice and a “2” next to your second choice. If your child is receiving special education services, please indicate that information on page 1.

2011-2012 Available transfer receiving schools:

Receiving School	Choice	Receiving School	Choice
Pikesville Middle School	_____	Woodlawn Middle School	_____

Student Name