

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE: TITLE I
TRANSFER OPTION
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
*NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001***



Questions and Answers

- 1. *What is the Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option?***
The Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option is a provision of the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*. Under this law, students enrolled in a Baltimore County Title I public school that has been identified for the Comprehensive Needs Pathway or the Focused Needs Pathway are eligible to transfer to another public school within Baltimore County.
- 2. *How is a school identified for the Comprehensive Needs Pathway or the Focused Needs Pathway?***
When a school has not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward meeting state-defined standards for proficiency in reading/language arts, mathematics, graduation rates and/or attendance rates for two or more consecutive years, it is placed on one of two different pathways. The two pathways are the Comprehensive Needs and the Focused Needs pathways. The Comprehensive Needs Pathway is for schools that did not meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) in the "all students" subgroup or in three or more subgroups. The Focused Needs Pathway is for schools that did not meet the AMO in one or two subgroups or is a 100% special education school.
- 3. *What Baltimore County Public Schools have been identified for the Comprehensive Needs Pathway or the Focused Needs Pathway?***
For the 2011-2012 school year, Baltimore Highlands, Edmondson Heights, Featherbed Lane, Halstead Academy, Hawthorne, Hebbville, Middlesex, and Riverview have been identified as Comprehensive Needs Pathway. White Oak School has been identified as Priority Focused Needs Pathway. Lansdowne Middle has been identified as Priority Comprehensive Needs Pathway.
- 4. *What does this mean for Baltimore County Public Schools?***
Baltimore Highlands, Edmondson Heights, Featherbed Lane, Halstead, Hawthorne, Hebbville, Lansdowne Middle, Middlesex, Riverview, and White Oak will be required to offer Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option for the 2011-2012 school year.
- 5. *Will students have to transfer from these schools?***
No. The decision to transfer to another school or stay at the current 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 fact that there are special resources at the current schools that are designed to improve student achievement.

6. ***How will Baltimore County Public Schools be able to provide transportation?***
NCLB requires that local school systems reserve a portion of their Title I funds to pay for transportation for students participating in Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option.
7. ***What procedures will be followed for reviewing Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option applications if there are more students desiring transfers than there are available spaces at schools eligible to receive students?***
NCLB requires that, when there are more applications than spaces at a particular school, priority be given to students based **first** on whether the student is eligible for free or reduced priced meals and **second** on academic status. Baltimore County Public Schools' order of eligibility for transfers shall be based solely on these criteria.
8. ***How many schools will Baltimore County offer to students eligible to participate in Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option?***
NCLB requires that more than one choice of school be offered to students. This year, **two** receiving schools have been identified for each Title I sending school.
9. ***Which schools will be eligible to receive students transferring under Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option?***
Schools that are made available to students transferring under Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option may not include any school that has been identified by the state for the Comprehensive Needs Pathway or the Focused Needs Pathway. The schools eligible to receive transferring students under Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option are identified in each school's application.
10. ***Must students who are receiving special education services be offered the same schools as students who do not receive special education services?***
In many cases, students eligible to apply for Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option who are receiving special education services, are able to choose from the same schools as eligible students who do not receive special education services. However, certain services required by a student's individualized education program (IEP) may not be available at each of the schools. Staff in the Office of Title I work collaboratively with staff from the Department of Special Education to identify school settings that will meet the needs of students receiving special education services.
11. ***Are children who will be attending a school required to offer Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option for the first time eligible to apply for a transfer?***
In order to be eligible for Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option, new students must be registered at the home school and must be enrolled in grades Pre K- 5 for the 2011-2012 school year.

12. *How will parents/guardians be informed of Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option?*

The Office of Title I, along with other school offices, strive to ensure that parents receive information about the transfer option process. Mailings, web information, newspapers, flyers and other mechanisms will be used to inform parents and guardians about community meetings that will be held. At these meetings, parents and guardians will receive information about Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option procedures and the timeline for the 2011–2012 school year.

13. *What is the planned process for parents to get copies of the application for Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option? Will there be different deadlines?*

- a. Applications will be available at all schools required to offer Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option and will be made available from the Office of Title I.
- b. Applications will be available at all community meetings and on the BCPS Web site, www.bcps.org.
- c. The deadline for receipt of Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option applications will be the same for all schools required to offer the Public School Choice: Title I Transfer Option.

14. *How soon may students transfer?*

Baltimore County Public Schools is currently projecting that students will begin attending their new schools in the fall of the 2011-2012 school year.

15. *Will families need to reapply for transfers each year?*

No. Children can continue attending that school until it is time for the student to go on to the middle school. However, Baltimore County Public Schools is required to provide transportation only as long as the sending school is identified for the Comprehensive Needs Pathway or the Focused Needs Pathway.

16. *Will Baltimore County Public Schools continue to provide transportation to students when their original Title I home school is no longer identified as a school improvement, corrective action or restructuring?*

Once a Title I school is no longer identified for the Comprehensive Needs Pathway or the Focused Needs Pathway, school system staff will analyze the projected cost of continuing to provide transportation on a year-by-year basis. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing each year as to the status of transportation for the following year.

17. *What will families need to do if they want their children to return to their home school?*

If families decide they want their children to return to their home school, they may withdraw their children from the new school and re-enroll them at the home school.