

LPSD
SCHOOL
CHOICE PLAN

2019-2020

Lafourche Parish School District

School Choice Plan

2019-2020

Under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) a school district must develop a plan of action for implementing the school choice option to parents when a school fails to meet the required School Performance Score levels set by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

This School Choice Plan has been developed in accordance with the Lafourche Parish Public School Choice Policy (JBCE). When a school enters school choice the following actions will be carried out by the superintendent and supervisory staff members.

1. Opportunities for Transferring Students to a Higher Performing School

The Lafourche Parish School District assures that all qualifying students in choice schools will be provided the option to move to a higher performing school utilizing the following measures at each choice school. The district assures that low income, low performing students will be given first priority in the selection process.

- a. Parents in schools that have been identified as schools in need of improvement will be notified by letter of the opportunity to transfer their child to a higher achieving school in the district. The letter will explain the criteria that identified this school as a choice school, what the choice school is doing to address the problem of low achievement, and how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement.
- b. Parents of students in choice schools will be notified of the higher achieving schools available for transfer.
- c. Low-income, low-achieving students will be given first priority in the selection process.
- d. Parents will have a 14-day deadline to declare the school of choice by submitting the formal application to the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance, Choice School, or present school.
- e. The Office of Child Welfare and Attendance will notify parents and the schools involved of the approved transfer within 5 days.
- f. The Office of Child Welfare and Attendance, the LPSD Transportation Department and the school of choice will assist parents in securing transportation.

2. Transportation

The Lafourche Parish School District will utilize district funded transportation schedules to transport school choice students as much as possible to meet the needs of school choice students.

3. District Assistance to be Provided to Low-Achieving Schools

Choice schools will be under the supervision of an Associate Director of Turnaround Schools that will be instrumental in overseeing the school improvement process. Using data from a comprehensive needs assessment to identify areas of concern, the Associate Director will assist the school with making adjustments to instructional programming, schedules, staff development and parental involvement activities, all geared towards the school improvement process. Each teacher will prepare an Individual Growth Plan (IGP) to address the underlying cause of the weaknesses revealed in the needs assessment. Each IGP must be approved as a part of the school improvement process, and the principal must affirm that each plan meets the needs of the choice school to better serve students enrolled in the school.

4. Timelines for School Choice Actions

The Lafourche Parish School District will implement Public School Choice by taking the following actions.

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| July 10, 2019 | Send home letters to parents of students enrolled in choice schools notifying them of the option to transfer their child to a higher performing school. Parents will be given school options from which to choose based on sufficient capacity at the appropriate grade levels. |
| July 24, 2019 | Accept applications until 4:00 P.M. Students will be ranked in order of income and academic achievement. Lowest achieving students from low-income families will be given priority in the selection process. Students for who transfer requests are not received in the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance by July 24 th will remain enrolled in his or her current school. |
| July 29, 2019 | Send notification letters concerning transfer decision to parents and schools involved. The Transportation Department will schedule transportation for students. |
| August 1, 2019 | Parents have until Aug 1st, to register their child (ren) at the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance or the designated school. |

5. Parental Notification of School Choice

Notices sent to parents shall include the following 6 elements;

- An explanation of what identification means, and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement with other elementary, middle or secondary schools in the Lafourche Parish School District;
- The reason for the identification;
- An explanation of what the school identified for school improvement is doing to address the problem of low achievement;
- An explanation of how the LPSD is addressing the school issue of low achievement;
- An explanation of how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement; and
- An explanation of the parent option to transfer their child to another public school (*with transportation provided by the LPSD*).

1. The LPSD Parent Notification Letter will include the six elements listed above. A copy of the notification letter to be sent to parents informing them of School Choice is included. The letter outlines options available to parents. Notification letters will be personalized for each school that is actually identified as a choice school.
2. The LPSD will accept and review all parental complaints. Each complaint will be received and acted upon by the appropriate supervisor. The LPSB Policy manual includes a Complaint Policy.

6. School Plan

The Lafourche Parish School District assures that all Title I schools identified for school choice shall within the start of the new school year develop or revise their School Improvement Plan, in consultation with parents, school staff, outside experts, and the local educational agency in accordance with ESSA guidelines.