

No Child Left Behind Act

School TRANSFER OPTION

Parent Information Guide



What is the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act?

The 2001 federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that all schools meet increased student achievement, school safety, and teacher quality standards. There may be consequences for schools that do not meet these standards. One measure of student progress is Adequate Yearly Progress.

What is Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?

Adequate Yearly Progress is used to hold schools accountable. Using a variety of measures selected by the Texas Education Agency, a Texas school can either “Meet AYP” or “Fail to Meet AYP.” By 2013–14, all students are expected to demonstrate “proficiency” on a variety of tests. While all schools are accountable under the AYP system, Title I* schools, have additional requirements, including that of Public School Choice. Title I schools that fail to meet AYP standards must allow students to transfer to schools that meet these standards.

What happens when a school fails to meet AYP?

- If a Title I school fails to meet AYP for 2 years in a row, students can transfer to another school. Transportation must be provided at no cost to parents.
- The school is required to develop a 2-year School Improvement Plan (SIP).
- If a school fails to meet AYP standards for 3 years in a row, students must be offered additional help.

Do I have to transfer my child to another school?

No. By law, transferring is your choice.

How do I find out if my child’s school met or failed to meet AYP?

Schools that fail to meet AYP are required to inform parents. You can call your school district or visit the Texas Education Agency Web site (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/>) to find schools that failed to meet AYP.

* Title I schools are schools where most students are eligible to receive free or reduced price meals.

School Transfer Option

The purpose of this guide is to help parents understand the school transfer option when a school has not met the standards required by the No Child Left Behind Act.



Several factors are important in making the decision to transfer to a new school, including academics, family circumstances, transportation, etc. Transferring your child to another school is an important decision. These steps should help you.

Steps to Make an Informed Decision

1 Understand why your school did not meet AYP standards.

The school might have failed to meet AYP for reasons that may not necessarily affect your child. Perhaps the school did not test enough students or one group of students did not do well on the test. You need to know exactly why your school did not meet AYP.

- *Find out if a school meeting is being held to discuss AYP results.* It is your right to know and the school administration must explain to parents why the school failed to meet AYP.
- *Your school will not be closed down immediately.* The law specifies that your school may be restructured if it fails to meet AYP for 4 consecutive years.

If the school did not hold a meeting or if you did not attend the meeting, do the following:

- *Call your school.* School staff can explain why the school failed to meet AYP.
- *Call your district.* Get information on the AYP status of all schools in the district and which schools can accept transfers.
- *Find out if your school is appealing its AYP status.* A school may appeal to the Texas Education Agency. Find out from the district if your school's appeal was granted and why. Even if the appeal is granted, your child can stay in the new school for the remainder of the year. However, if the appeal is granted, your child may not be able to continue in the new school next year.

- *Go to your school.* School staff can help you understand the reasons your child's school failed to meet AYP and if this affects your child's welfare or performance.
- *Check the School Improvement Plan.* Find out if your school's improvement plan addresses your concerns.

2 Find out how your child is doing in school.

- *Go to your school.* Talk to teachers and counselors about how your child is doing in school.
- *Ask your child.* Talk about how he is doing in school. Ask if he would like to change schools or how he would feel about transferring.
- *Check the programs and activities of interest to your child.* Find out if there are programs or projects that she might miss in another school. Also find out if the school you are considering has any special programs or activities of interest.

3 Find out which schools are open to receive transfer students.

- *Ask your district NCLB coordinator.* Policies vary across districts. Find out which schools you can transfer into and, if possible, select a first choice. Some schools may not be able to accept more students.

4 Find out what other transfer options are available.

- *Consider magnet or other special schools.* Find out which schools in your district have special programs (science and math academies, culinary arts, fine arts, technology academies, etc.). Find out what is required to transfer to one of those schools.
- *Investigate other transferring options.* Many districts have other ways for students to transfer. Find out if your child can transfer using one of these transfer options.

5 Visit the school or schools you are considering transferring into.

- *Call your first choice school.* Visit and talk to teachers, counselors, and other staff. Review the school report card and compare to your child's current school.
- *Learn about extracurricular activities, sports, and programs of interest.* Find out which activities are offered at the new school and if your child will be able to participate in these activities.

- *Explore the new school's social setting.* Will your child feel comfortable and find new friends?
- *Will your child's learning improve?* Talk to the counselor and teachers to see if this school will be better for your child. If your child is receiving special services, like special education, or is enrolled in a bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) program, find out how the programs compare to your current school.

6 Check the new transportation arrangements.

- *Find out the new bus routes and drop-off and pick-up points.* Districts may have different routes for transfers. Will the transportation arrangements work for you and your child?

7 Find out how long or for how many years the transfer lasts.

- *Ask the principal in the new school whether your child will be expected to transfer for the entire school year.* Can your child return to the original school if the new arrangement does not work?
- *Find out if the transfer request needs to be renewed.* A new transfer request may be needed each year.

Where can I go for more information?



Regional Education Service Centers
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ESC/>

Texas Education Agency
Division of NCLB Program
Coordination
 512-463-9374
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/nclb/>

Division of Performance Reporting
 512-463-9704
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/>

U.S. Department of Education
 800-USA-LEARN
<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Parent Institute
 800-756-5525
<http://www.parent-institute.com/parent/>

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory
 800-476-6861
<http://www.sedl.org>

Evaluation Form

Please give us your opinion about this parent information guide on school transfer option so that we can provide the most useful information for parents. We appreciate your time and opinion.

Where does your child go to school? _____
(Optional)

Select the best response

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1. This guide had useful information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. This guide was easy to understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. This guide helped me make a decision about the school transfer option.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I am happy with my child's school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I often look up information using the Internet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

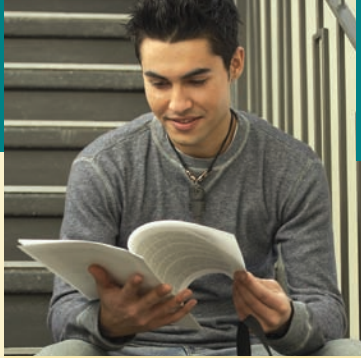
6. What was the MOST useful information?

7. What was the LEAST useful information?

8. Is there anything you would like to add?

Please tear along the perforation and drop in the mail.





Participate in Your Child's School

Transferring your child affects you in more than one way. Changing schools might entail both gains and losses that should be carefully considered.

Whether you decide to transfer or not, become an active partner with your child's school. Students are more successful when parents play a key role in their child's education. Schools welcome what you have to say. Parental involvement is center stage in the NCLB Act and is essential to the success of the School Improvement Plan.

How to Participate

- Get to know your child's teachers, counselors, and school principal and ask them what you can do for your child at home. Ask for parent support materials and activities that the school offers.
- Make yourself available for phone calls and read letters and documents from the school.
- Become a full partner in the school and participate, as appropriate, in decision making and advisory committees to ensure your child's success.
- Attend back-to-school nights, school activities, and other school-sponsored events.
- Meet other parents, become a parent volunteer, or participate by joining the Parent Teacher Association or Organization (PTA, PTO).



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