

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Fannin County School Choice Procedures

Under a new law enacted by the 2009 Georgia General Assembly, HB 251, codified as O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131, parents of K-12 public school students in Georgia now have the option of requesting to enroll their child in any school within the local school district in which they reside, if the District has determined that there is classroom space available in that school. The following process explains how this will occur within the Fannin County School System. Because there is only one high school and one middle school in Fannin County, the following guidelines apply only to our elementary schools.

1. The Fannin County School System will determine every year, by June 25th, the estimated number of vacant seats available at schools that are eligible to receive transfer students under HB 251. Campus vacancies will be established based upon state guidelines for maximum classroom student/ teacher ratio. Final vacancy numbers will be determined on the eleventh school day of each school year. No student transfers will be approved if there are five or less spaces available for growth.
2. Estimated vacancies will be published on the district's website (www.fannin.k12.ga.us) and all elementary school websites by July 1, 2011. These vacancies will also be posted at the Central Administrative Office.
3. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may apply for vacancies through the following application process:
 - a. Applications will be taken at the Central Administration Office only.
 - b. Applications will only be accepted by 1st class mail (no hand delivered applications.)
 - c. Only applications received that are postmarked during the month of July (the 1st-31st) each year, will be considered valid and eligible for the placement lottery.
 - d. Parent(s), guardian(s), and students are eligible to transfer only once per academic school year under the school choice option. Unless a student meets one of the qualifications listed below in item 4, only students who participate in the lottery placement drawing are eligible to transfer. Students who enroll in the Fannin County School System during an academic year must wait until the following summer to enter the placement lottery through the application process.
4. After the application window has closed, eligible applications will be sorted by campus preference. Priority will be given to those students who: (a) are attending a school that is in any level of Needs Improvement, (b) have disabilities whose IEP or IAP requires placement at a particular school, (c) are homeless students, (d) are students entitled to attend a certain school as a result of being children of employees, and (e) are twins or other multiples with siblings in accordance with state law. Following those assignments, a random drawing for placement of all other applicants will occur at the Central Administrative Office.
5. Upon completion of the random drawing, principals will notify parent(s)/guardian(s) of students not living in their attendance area that their

- student was selected for assignment at the school of choice and how to transfer their child.
6. Parents/guardians whose children are approved for transfer for the school of choice must assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of their child to and from the school as long as the transferred child remains at that school. Students who transfer may remain at the school of choice through the fifth grade.
 7. Students currently attending a school which is not in the attendance area in which they reside are grandfathered in to that school.
 8. The application form can be printed from the district or each school's website which are found at www.fannin.k12.ga.us. The application may also be picked up at the Central Administrative Office or any elementary school office.