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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 16, 2017

(Release #2017/18 – 017)

Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390, ext. 0, Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net

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HB251 School Transfer Option Based on Space Availability

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The 2009 Georgia General Assembly approved House Bill 251 (HB 251), giving parents/guardians the option to request that their children attend any school within the school system *based on space availability*. School districts determine available classroom space after all assigned students have been enrolled.

In accordance with the law, the Houston County School System created a process for parents to exercise a school transfer option and process to determine space availability. Information about HB 251 is posted to the system website, www.hcbe.net, to include implementation procedures, a list of schools with available classroom space and an application to request a transfer.

As of the tenth day of school, 13 elementary schools had grade-specific openings: Centerville, Hilltop, Kings Chapel, Langston Road, Lindsey, Miller, Morningside, Northside, Parkwood, Pearl Stephens, Russell, Shirley Hills and Westside. Warner Robins Middle and Thomson Middle also have space available. **The openings are grade specific, as shown on page three. All high schools are at capacity.**

Parents who desire to request a school transfer may print a “2017-2018 Application to Request Public School Transfer” from the website or pick up a form from any school. Applications for transfer will be available on-line July 1, 2017. Applications will be accepted from July 1, 2017, through August 21, 2017. **Applications must be postmarked by August 21, 2017.**

Applications will be approved based on the order in which they are received. Families that request a transfer will be notified of approval or denial by August 28, 2017.

Houston County bases availability on 80 percent capacity in classrooms. The list of schools with classroom space available was finalized based on the tenth day of school enrollment, August 15, 2017. This allowed time for a more accurate enrollment number at each school based on new students and school withdrawals.

MORE

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All students will begin the school year at their home-zoned school. Approved transfers will be effective by September 5, 2017, following notification. Parents who transfer their children under HB 251 are required by law to assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of the student to and from school as long as the child remains at that school.

Applications for transfer must be mailed to the Assistant Superintendent for School Operations, Dr. Richard Rogers. The address is: Houston County Board of Education, P.O. Box 1850, Perry, Georgia, 31069. **Schools are not accepting these applications.**

Information regarding HB 251 is posted to the Board of Education website on the [School Zones webpage](#). The following is posted and provided below: list of schools with available classroom space, implementation procedures and an application to request a transfer through HB 251. For more information, contact Dr. Rogers at Richard.Rogers@hcbe.net or 478-218-7512.

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P.O. Box 1850 - Perry, Georgia 31069
 478-988-6200
www.hcbe.net

**2017 - 2018 Classroom Availability as of August 15, 2017
 HB 251 Public School Transfer**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH CAPACITY (BY GRADE)

GRADE	SCHOOL
K	Centerville, Lindsey, Miller, Shirley Hills
1	Lindsey, Northside, Shirley Hills, Westside
2	Lindsey, Northside, Shirley Hills, Westside
3	Lindsey, Northside, Pearl Stephens, Westside
4	Centerville, Hilltop, Kings Chapel, Langston Road, Lindsey, Miller, Morningside, Northside, Westside
5	Lindsey, Miller, Morningside, Parkwood, Russell, Westside

MIDDLE SCHOOLS CAPACITY (BY GRADE)

Grade	SCHOOL
6	No available space
7	Warner Robins Middle
8	Thomson Middle

HIGH SCHOOLS CAPACITY

Houston County High School	No available space
Northside High School	No available space
Perry High School	No available space
Veterans High School	No available space
Warner Robins High School	No available space



HB 251 (2017-2018) - Implementation Procedures

1. Parents of Houston County School System students will be notified of HB251 by July 1 of each year and provided with a preliminary list of schools (with less than 80 percent capacity) based on existing data.
2. Parents may get an “**Application to Request Public School Transfer**” from their zoned school or may download a copy from www.hcbe.net beginning July 1.
3. Applications for transfer must be mailed to the *Assistant Superintendent for School Operations*, HCBOE, P.O. Box 1850, Perry, GA, 31069.
4. Applications for transfer will be available on-line July 1, 2017. Applications will be accepted July 1, 2017, until August 21, 2017. After the August 21 deadline, no applications will be accepted for the remainder of the school year.
5. All applications for transfer must be postmarked by the **August 21, 2017** deadline.
6. Capacity will be determined by a school’s enrollment on the tenth day of the school year after all assigned students have been enrolled. Schools and/or grade levels may be removed or added after this date due to student enrollment.
7. In the event the number of transfer requests exceeds the available capacity in the particular school, requests will be approved based on the order in which they were received.
8. Parents will be notified of the approval or denial of their request by **August 28, 2017**.
9. All students are to begin the school year at their home zoned school. Approved transfers will be effective by Tuesday, **September 5, 2017**.
10. Once a request is approved, the parent assumes all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of their child to and from the school so long as the child remains at that assigned school.

Dr. Richard Rogers, Assistant Superintendent
Office of School Operations
478-218-7512

P.O. Box 1850 • PERRY, GEORGIA 31069
(478) 988-6200 • FAX (478) 988-6259
WWW.HCBE.NET

Houston County Board of Education

P.O. Box 1850, Perry, Georgia 31069

2017-2018 APPLICATION TO REQUEST HB 251 PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSFER

MUST BE POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 21, 2017

Parents: Please complete an application for EACH individual student and MAIL (applications will not be accepted at the school site) by August 21, 2017 to:

*Dr. Richard Rogers, Assistant Superintendent
HCBOE School Operations
P.O. Box 1850
Perry, GA 31069*

Under a 2009 state law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131), parents may request a transfer to another public school within their local school district if space is available. If you want to request a transfer, please complete the information below.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Today's Date _____ Student's Name _____

Grade Entering _____ Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Special Education Placement? YES or NO If yes, what is exceptionality _____
(circle one)

Name of Custodial Parent/Guardian Requesting Transfer _____

Home Address _____ GA _____
Street City State Zip

Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____

SCHOOL CHILD IS ZONED TO ATTEND _____

.....

PARENT REQUEST FOR SCHOOL TRANSFER

I _____ am requesting a transfer for _____
Name of Parent/Guardian Student's Legal Name

to attend one of the following other schools in the Houston County School System. I fully understand that my child may only receive my first choice of schools if space is available at the time this request is approved by the local school district.

Parent/Guardian Ranked List of Schools for Transfer (where more than one school is available):

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date