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School Choice

What does NCLB say about school choice?

Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) parents have the right to send their child to another school if the child's school does not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two or more years in a row. The new school must not be in need of improvement and must have space available. If there is no qualifying school available, then your child's school may offer supplemental services to students who qualify.

If my child's school offers school choice, should I transfer her or him to another school?

Not necessarily. AYP is only one factor to consider when deciding whether or not to transfer your child to a new school. In general, changing schools is disruptive and can be hard on children. You may want to consider working with your child's current school to help them make changes to improve.

The most important thing to consider is how your child is doing at his or her current school. Talk to your child's teacher about how your child is doing in school. Visit other schools that are available and talk to teachers and principals. Also think about:

- The school's curriculum and programs
- The school's location and hours
- The school's teachers
- Your child's wants and needs
- What your child needs to do his or her best in school

When should I transfer my child to another school?

When you receive the school notice telling you that your child has the option of transferring to another school, it's best to get all the information you need as soon as possible so that your child can secure an opening in the school of choice.

How do I transfer my child to the new school?

Be sure to let your child's school know that you want to transfer your child to the new school and ask them what you need to do and what they need to do to make the transfer.

Does the school district have to pay for transportation to the new school?

Yes, under NCLB your child's school district must provide transportation to the new school.

For more information on School Choice call our Family Resource Center at the Rhode Island Parent Information Network, 401-270-0101 or 800-464-3399.

Adapted with permission from the Massachusetts Parent Information & Resource Center, A project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs