



## Annual School Choice Notification

### Parent / Guardian Notification of School Choice Privilege Options

In accordance with Effingham County Board of Education policy JBCA Resident Students and Georgia Senate Bill 10 (Special Needs Scholarship), a parent / legal guardian may elect to submit to the Superintendent's designee a written request that their child(ren) in grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> attend another public school in the Effingham County School System for the 2017-2018 school year.

The following stipulations apply:

1. The student must be a full-time resident of Effingham County.
2. Space must be available after the school's assigned students have been enrolled. For the 2017-2018 school year, the following schools have been identified as having available space to accept transfers:

**Blandford Elementary**  
**Guyton Elementary**  
**Marlow Elementary**  
**Rincon Elementary**

**Sand Hill Elementary**  
**Springfield Elementary**  
**Ebenezer Middle**  
**Effingham County Middle**

**Effingham County High**  
**South Effingham High**

*Ebenezer Elementary, South Effingham Elementary and South Effingham Middle do **NOT** have available space.*

3. Any special programs required by the student must be available at the school requested. Policy JBCA Resident Students does not provide that the district allow for transfers to schools where special programs do not already exist.
4. Buses operated by Effingham County Schools are not authorized to transport students to and from addresses that are outside of the attendance zone of the school the student is attending. Transportation of School Choice Privilege students to or from care providers within the attendance zone of the school the student has been approved to attend are subject to space availability and approval by the Department of Transportation. Please visit [www.effinghamschools.com](http://www.effinghamschools.com) and click on Departments – Transportation for more information.
5. Unless approved by the Transportation Department to utilize bus transportation to and from a caregiver's address, the parent / guardian of any student transferring under School Choice Privilege shall assume the responsibility and cost of transportation to and from school with the student arriving and departing each day according to the school's schedule for arrival and departure; The school principal or superintendent's designee may, at his or her discretion, require a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss excessive absences, tardies, or early/late pickups. If it is determined that the student's attendance issues are a result of non-zoned school attendance, the student may be required by the district to transfer to his or her zoned school.
6. In the event that a high school student has parking / driving privileges revoked due to a violation of JBD: Absences and Excuses, revocation or denial of a driver's license by the Department of Driver Services, or is for any other reason unable to drive his or herself to school, it shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student to arrange for transportation to and from school; otherwise, the student shall transfer to the zoned school where the student may utilize transportation provided by the school district.
7. In the event that more requests are received than can be accommodated based on space, requests from parents who are employed by the Effingham County Board of Education and those requests with attached documentation of legitimate hardship shall receive priority. Any remaining openings shall be filled based on order of application receipt.
8. Any student transferring under this law shall be subject to the eligibility requirements of the Georgia High School Association.
9. Each child in a family must submit a separate application. Approval of one child in a family does NOT guarantee approval of others in the same family.
10. Approval of students to transfer under School Choice Privilege does not guarantee that younger siblings will be able to attend the same school once they reach school age. If space is not available at a school the year a younger sibling begins Kindergarten, their application will be denied, regardless of the School Choice status of older students continuing at the same school.
11. School Choice Privilege does not apply to students applying for enrollment in a lottery funded Georgia Pre-K program. District procedure is to provide Pre-K enrollment preference to resident students and those eligible under Effingham County BOE Policy JBCCA Student Assignment to Schools.
12. If your child was approved for transfer under School Choice Privilege in a prior year and your child will be continuing his or her enrollment at the same school, you should **NOT** re-apply.

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13. If your child will be completing all grades at their current school this academic year and you wish for your child to attend school outside his attendance zone as a rising 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grader, you **ARE** required to submit a new application.
14. Children not currently attending an Effingham County public school must complete the new student registration process at the Effingham County Schools Central Registration Center prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, in order to have a School Choice application considered.

### Transfer Request Process

**Step 1:** Carefully review Effingham County Board of Education policy JBCA Resident Students, located at [www.effinghamschools.com](http://www.effinghamschools.com), by navigating to School Board tab, BOE Policy drop-down. A copy may also be obtained at the Effingham County Board of Education Central Office at 405 N. Ash Street, Springfield.

**Step 2:** Complete a School Transfer Request Form. Forms will be made available at [www.effinghamschools.com](http://www.effinghamschools.com) beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2017 and may be picked up beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 3, 2017 from the Effingham County Schools Central Office at 405 N. Ash Street, Springfield, GA. If a hardship situation applies, prepare and attach a written explanation and any documentation you wish to provide as evidence of your hardship.

**Step 3:** Completed application must be **hand-delivered to the Central Office or sent via U.S. Mail to Effingham County Schools, 405 N. Ash Street, Springfield, GA 31329. Requests must be post-marked or hand-delivered by 4:30 PM on Friday, April 21, 2017. Applications submitted to any other address or by any other means will NOT be accepted.**

**Step 4:** You will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of your application via U.S. mail. Please do **NOT** call the Board of Education for a status update unless you do not receive your notification by **May 10, 2017.**

### Additional Options Relating to the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship

Effingham County Board of Education Policy JBCA Resident Students allows for any students in grades Kindergarten through 12th, including those students with disabilities, to request a transfer to another school within their school district of residence, provided the stipulations of the policy are met. If your child has an active IEP and you wish to be considered for a transfer to another Effingham County school, you will follow the same transfer request process explained in this notification as students not served under an IEP. The Georgia Special Needs Scholarship does, however, include additional options for transferring your special needs child to a state school, participating Georgia private school, or participating Georgia public school district. In order for any of these options to be exercised, the participating school must offer the programs required by the child's active Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students enrolled at a school operated by the Department of Juvenile Justice are not eligible for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship.

**State Schools Option:** You may request a transfer to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the Georgia State Board of Education. Acceptance into the state school will be contingent on the appropriateness of the setting for your student. If you choose this option, you will be responsible for transportation to the state school. Please contact the Georgia State Department of Education, 2034 Twin Towers East, Atlanta, GA 30334 (800-311-3627) for more information about transferring to a state school.

**Private School Option:** If you are interested in transferring your student to a private school in Georgia, you may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. These state scholarships provide funding that can be used to help pay for tuition costs at participating private schools in the state of Georgia. For additional information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and the parent application process, please call the Georgia Department of Education at (404) 656-2800 or visit the Special Needs Scholarship website at <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx>.

**Transfer to Another Georgia School District Option:** A school district considering a request for a transfer into its school system has the authority to approve or deny a public school transfer request for any reason. A school district considering a transfer can deny a request even if there is capacity and a program available that is aligned to the student's IEP within its system. If a request is approved, a school district can charge parent(s) / guardian(s) for the costs of educating a student from outside its school district. The Effingham County School System does **NOT** approve applications submitted for students who reside outside of Effingham County pursuant to the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. If you are an Effingham resident, however, and are interested in transferring your child to another Georgia public school district, it is your responsibility to contact that school district to inquire about their acceptance of non-resident students pursuant to the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship.