

**February 13, 2017**

**OUR VISION**

The vision of the Paulding County School District is to provide a safe, healthy, supportive environment focused on learning and committed to high academic achievement. Through the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, students will be prepared as lifelong learners and as participating, contributing members of our dynamic and diverse community.

**Schools offering opportunities for HB 251 “Public School Choice” option:**

**Elementary**

**Abney**

**Allgood**

**Baggett**

**Dallas**

**Dugan**

**Hiram**

**Hutchens**

**McGarity**

**Nebo**

**New Georgia**

**Northside**

**Panter**

**Poole**

**Ragsdale**

**Roberts**

**Russom**

**Union**

**Middle**

**Dobbins**

**EPMS**

**Jones**

**Moses**

**Ritch**

**Scoggins**

**SPMS**

**High**

**EPHS SPHS**

**HHS**

**PCHS**



**Parent School Choice Notification**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As the parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled in our school district, we are writing to notify you that under state law HB 251, you may request to transfer your child to another public school in the Paulding County School District for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year.

**Parent Responsibilities**

As a parent or guardian, you may request to have your child transferred to another public school within your school district of residence as long as the school district has determined that there is available classroom space at the school after all assigned students have been enrolled. Please keep in mind that if you choose to transfer your child to another school in the district, the law requires you to assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of your child to and from the school for as long as your child remains at that school.

In order to process your request, you will need to complete and submit the “School Choice Request Form” which will be made available at 5 p.m. on **February 24, 2017**. For currently enrolled students, parent requests for school choice under HB 251 will not be accepted after the close of business on **March 10, 2017**.

School choice requests will be reviewed and approved or denied on the basis of a lottery in the event a particular school has available space but the number of transfer requests exceeds the remaining available capacity. Once available classroom space is reached at a school, no more school choice requests will be accepted for that school.

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact the Operations Department @ 770-443-8000.

Sincerely,

Cliff Cole

Superintendent

\* For more information regarding the Paulding County School Districts School Choice procedures please see Administrative Regulation [Student Assignment to Schools JBCCA-R](#).

## HB 251 Public School Choice Framework

Parents of K-12 public school students in Georgia now have the option to enroll their child in any school within the local school district in which they now reside. The law requires, among other things, that each school district implement a universal, streamlined process to manage such transfers by July 1 of each year.

### A. Features of House Bill 251

A parent/guardian can elect to send a child to another public school in the same school district as long as there is classroom space available at the school after its assigned students have been enrolled;

If a parent elects to exercise this choice option, the parent assumes all costs associated with transporting the child to and from the selected school;

A student who transfers to another school pursuant to this law may continue to attend such school until the student completes all grades of the selected school;

If a parent requests a transfer to a school that does not have the services required by the current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP), nothing in the law requires the school to develop those services as long as they are available within the local school district;

Any student transferring under this law shall be subject to the eligibility requirements of the Georgia High School Association.

### B. Paulding County School District General Guidelines

Applications for Paulding County School District "School Choice" must be submitted between **February 24, 2017 (5:00 PM) and the close of business (5:00 PM) on March 10, 2017.**

Applications will be available online or you may pick one up at the District Office.

Annual notification – By July 1 of each year, the Paulding County School District will notify parents regarding which schools have available space and which of these schools parents may choose to request a transfer for their children.

In the event a particular school has available space and the number of transfer requests exceeds the remaining available capacity, the school will conduct a random lottery that provides each interested student with an equal chance to be admitted.

A student who is granted a transfer may continue to attend that school until the student completes all grades of the receiving school. **A transferring student who completes all grades available at the receiving school does not automatically receive enrollment preference to the feeder school.** The local school district has discretion to determine the appropriate school for enrollment.

### C. Defining Capacity at the School Level

The Paulding County School District defines available classroom as permanent classroom space. In defining available classroom space, the Paulding County School District may deny a parental request for transfer based on a lack of capacity for the following reasons:

Capacity of the school building based on established health and safety provisions;

Class-size capacity by grade and subject, based on State law and rule;

In addition, the Paulding County School District may deny a transfer based on a lack of capacity in order to ensure students for whom Federal law provides a selected space.



### Information

Please refer to the **Student Transfer Procedures 2017-2018** link on the Paulding County School District website for more information and to download an application.

