



March 6, 2017

Dear Parents or Guardians:

RE: Senate Bill 10 – Georgia Special Needs Scholarship

The Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Law of 2007 affords parents of students who receive special education services the choice to transfer their child to another public or private school in Georgia.

Public School Choice Options

You may request a transfer to another public school within the Paulding County School District as long as there is available space at that school and the school can implement the student's IEP as currently written (Grades 1 – 12). If you choose this option, you are responsible for transportation to and from the school. An application and eligibility criteria can be found on the Paulding County School District's website www.paulding.k12.ga.us. Applications may be submitted electronically March 13 through March 31. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Services Department at 770-443-8030.

You may request to transfer to a school outside of the Paulding County School District. The desired school must have space available and a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing IEP. The school must first agree to accept your student. If you choose this option, please contact the desired school system for information and deadlines.

You may also request a transfer to one of the State schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a State school will depend on if that setting is appropriate for your student's needs. If you choose this option, then you are responsible for transportation to and from the State school. Please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx> for more information about transferring to a State school.

Private School Choice Option

If you are interested in transferring your child to a private school in Georgia, you may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the State of Georgia. For more information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and the application process, please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx>.

Sincerely,

Cliff Cole
Superintendent of Schools