SCHOOL CHOICE

Code JFB Issued 1/06

Purpose: To offer school choice as part of Charleston County School District's educational plan.

(See policy JFABC for information concerning student transfers. See policy IHBHB for information concerning student enrollment in a magnet school or program.)

In providing school choice, the district will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, color, disability, national origin, immigrant status, English-speaking status, or any other applicable status protected by local, state, or federal law.

Persistently dangerous schools (Title IV)

Students who attend a school identified as persistently dangerous, or who are victims of a violent criminal offense occurring in or on the grounds of the school the student attends, shall be allowed to transfer to another school in the district not identified as persistently dangerous.

No Child Left Behind public school choice (Title I schools)

All students enrolled in a school identified for improvement by federal guidelines shall be provided with the option to transfer to another district school that has not been identified for school improvement. Schools included under this policy have been identified in one of the following categories.

- corrective action
- continuing school improvement
- newly-identified for school improvement

The district will provide transportation for these students.

On an annual basis, Charleston County School District shall identify the schools to which students may transfer based on geographic location and state department of education school report card status of average or better. If requests for transfers are made, students shall be transferred to schools meeting these criteria, first within their respective constituent districts, then, if not possible, to the nearest Charleston County School District school meeting these criteria.

Parents/Legal guardians shall not be required to renew transfer requests after the first transfer has been awarded under this policy. Charleston County School District schools which require application for admission, e.g., magnet or specialty schools, are not included in these transfer considerations. Students may remain at the school to which they have been transferred after the home school status has improved; however, transportation shall no longer be provided.

Supplemental educational services

Students qualifying for free and reduced lunch who are enrolled in the corrective action and improvement schools and who do not request transfers shall be eligible for supplemental educational services. Priority for these supplemental services shall be given to the lowest achieving students from low income families. Only state-approved providers may be paid from the Title I funds. Parents/Legal guardians may select an appropriate provider for these supplemental services from the state list in Charleston County.

PAGE 2 - JFB - SCHOOL CHOICE

Parents/Legal guardians shall be responsible for providing transportation to and from the supplemental educational services provider.

Students will no longer be eligible for supplemental educational services at the end of the school term when the home school status improves.

Parent/Legal guardian notification

The district shall notify parents/legal guardians of students attending identified schools in accordance with legal requirements. Staff shall prepare this notification for distribution by May 1, or within 10 working days of receiving state notification of school status, whichever is the latter.

All transfer requests must be received by July 1, or 30 calendar days after receipt of notification, whichever is the latter.

In providing school choice, Charleston County School District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, immigrant status or English-speaking status, sex, gender preference, disability or age consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

Adopted 5/13/02; Revised 1/23/06

Legal references:

A. Federal law:

- 1. Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Section 116.
- 2. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion or sex.
- 3. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC Section 1681, et seq. Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.