

LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOLS

Home of the Vikings

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RE: Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and Public School Choice Options

Under a state law passed by the Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents of students who receive special education may request a transfer for their child to another public school or private school in Georgia. **Certain conditions apply**

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 (GSNS). These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the state of Georgia. At the time of this mailing, no schools in Lowndes County have applied for accreditation for the GSNS. For more information on the scholarship and the parent application process, please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx> or call 404-656-3348. As of May 8, 2012, no private schools in Lowndes County or surrounding areas are approved for participation in GSNS.

Public School Choice Options

A parent may request a transfer to a school in another school system. Applications for transfer can be obtained from the central office of Lowndes County Schools. The receiving system must also approve the transfer. If the transfer is approved, the parent shall be responsible for transportation.

A parent may request a transfer to another public school within their resident school system if there is available space at that school and in the special education program with the services agreed to in the student's existing Individualized Education Program. Applications for transfer can be obtained from the central office of Lowndes County Schools. If the transfer is approved, the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the receiving school. For the 2012-2013 school year, all Lowndes County Schools are closed for transfers. Hardship requests may be submitted for review by the superintendent.

The parent may request a transfer to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Criteria must be met for acceptance into a state school. If the transfer is approved, the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the state school. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information.

Sincerely,



Wes Taylor
Superintendent