

February 16, 2018

Dear Aiken County Public Schools' Families,

It is our desire that your student be in an educational environment most suited to his or her learning and individual achievement. While it is our hope that the school to which your student is zoned is your school of choice, there are options and opportunities for transfer should that be of interest or need to your student and family. Information about school choice and applications for the various options are available on the Aiken County Public Schools website, www.acpsd.net. On the navigation bar select **"I AM ..."** and then **"A Parent/Guardian"**. Scroll down and select **"School Choice"** on the left hand side of the page. Your student's current school can also provide you with information.

ELEMENTARY EXPANDED CHOICE

This transfer opportunity is available only for elementary school students (5K-fifth grade) and exclusively for transfer to the following schools:

J. D. Lever Elementary	Ridge Spring – Monetta Elementary	North Aiken Elementary
Greendale Elementary	Oakwood – Windsor Elementary	Redcliffe Elementary
Busbee Corbett Elementary		

Available space will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis and must be submitted by the deadline of Friday, March 16, 2018. Please note that Expanded Choice is not an option for 4K, middle or high school students, or to any elementary school not listed above.

HARDSHIP TRANSFERS

While every effort will be made to honor hardship transfers, no transfers will be accepted to the following schools as the number of students currently enrolled and expected for the 2018-2019 school year already substantially exceed the total amount to which those facilities were designed.

The schools **NOT** available for Hardship Transfer include the following:

Aiken Elementary	Hammond Hill Elementary	Byrd Elementary
Belvedere Elementary	Millbrook Elementary	Mossy Creek Elementary
Chukker Creek Elementary	Clearwater Elementary	Kennedy Middle
Leavelle McCampbell Middle	Midland Valley High	

Special exceptions will be considered for siblings of currently enrolled transfer students. Transfers will be granted for all other schools based on capacity on a first-come, first-served basis. Friday, March 16, 2018, is the deadline to submit hardship transfer requests for the 2018-19 school year. If anticipated capacity at a particular school is reached prior to the deadline, that school will no longer be an available option for transfer.

MAGNET SCHOOL TRANSFERS

Requests for attendance to one of Aiken County's magnet schools, including East Aiken School of the Arts (elementary), Jackson STEM Middle School (Science Technology Engineering & Math), or New Ellenton STEAM Middle School (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math), may be made on the Student Transfer Request form. The deadline for submitting paperwork for a magnet school transfer is also Friday, March 16, 2018. Magnet school deadlines may be extended depending on space available in those programs. Students applying for magnet schools may be placed on a waiting list when program capacity is reached.

If a request for transfer was previously approved, you do not need to request transfers each year. Transfers are approved through the fifth grade for elementary, through the eighth grade for middle, and through graduation for high school. While every effort will be made to keep students at their school of transfer, space limitations may make it necessary to rescind previously approved transfers.

Also, as a reminder, special permission (through Expanded Choice, Hardship, or Magnet School) is contingent upon the student following the Code of Student Conduct. Transfer students must be in regular attendance, arrive at school on time, and be picked up promptly afterwards. The transportation of transfer students is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

Key dates to remember:

February 16, 2018

Choice/transfer information and applications are available on the district website.

February 16 – March 16, 2018

Choice/transfer applications will be accepted by mail, email, or hand delivery.

March 16, 2018

Choice/transfer application deadline – **No applications for expanded choice or hardship will be accepted after this deadline.**

March 30, 2018

Parents will be notified of their choice/transfer application status.

April 27, 2018

Deadline for appealing transfer decisions to the Area Advisory Council

As a reminder, schools that are at capacity will not be available for transfer. While we cannot guarantee every request will be approved, we have been able to approve many requests in recent years. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Michelle Bledsoe, Administrative Secretary, at 803-641-2420 or email transfers@acpsd.net.

Sincerely,

King Laurence
Chief Administration Officer