

LPSD SCHOOL CHOICE PLAN

2024-2025

Lafourche Parish School District
School Choice Plan

2024-2025

Under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) a school district must develop a plan of action for implementing the school choice option to parents when a school fails to meet the required School Performance Score levels set by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

This School Choice Plan has been developed in accordance with the Lafourche Parish Public School Choice Policy (JBCE). When a school enters school choice the following actions will be carried out by the superintendent and supervisory staff members.

1. Opportunities for Transferring Students to a Higher Performing School

The Lafourche Parish School District assures that all qualifying students in choice schools will be provided the option to move to a higher performing school utilizing the following measures at each choice school. The district assures that low income, low performing students will be given first priority in the selection process.

- a. Parents in schools that have been identified as schools in need of improvement will be notified by letter of the opportunity to transfer their child to a higher achieving school in the district. The letter will explain the criteria that identified this school as a choice school, what the choice school is doing to address the problem of low achievement, and how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement.
- b. Parents of students in choice schools will be notified of the higher achieving schools available for transfer.
- c. For purposes of determining capacity, as determined by School Board staffing policy, a school which has an anticipated enrollment of 80% or greater of its optimal total student capacity, in the grade in which the student seeks to enroll, shall be deemed to have insufficient capacity to allow for a School Choice enrollment. Capacity may also be adjusted downward due to Covid-19 social distancing requirements, damage resulting from natural disasters, or other factors of a similar nature.
- d. Low-income, low-achieving students will be given first priority in the selection process.
- e. Parents will have a 28-day deadline to declare the school of choice by submitting the formal application to the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance, Choice School, or present school.
- f. The Office of Child Welfare and Attendance will notify parents and the schools involved of the approved transfer within 7 days.
- g. The Office of Child Welfare and Attendance, the LPSD Transportation Department and the school of choice will assist parents in securing transportation.

2. Transportation

The Lafourche Parish School District will use district-funded transportation schedules to transport school choice students as much as possible to meet their needs.

3. Timelines for School Choice Actions

The Lafourche Parish School District will implement Public School Choice by taking the following actions.

- February 27, 2024 Send home letters to parents of students enrolled in choice schools notifying them of the option to transfer their child to a higher performing school. Parents will be given school options from which to choose based on sufficient capacity at the appropriate grade levels.
- March 1-28, 2024 Accept applications until 4:00 P.M. Students will be ranked in income and academic achievement. Lowest achieving students from low-income families will be given priority in the selection process. Students for who transfer requests are not received in the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance by March 28th will remain enrolled in their current school.
- April 10, 2024 Send notification letters or contact parent by phone concerning transfer decision. The Transportation Department will schedule transportation for students later but before August 7, 2024.
- April 30, 2024 Parents have until April 30th, to register their child (ren) at the designated school.

4. Parental Notification of School Choice

Notices sent to parents shall include the following 6 elements;

- An explanation of what identification means, and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement with other elementary, middle or secondary schools in the Lafourche Parish School District;
- The reason for the identification;
- An explanation of what the school identified for school improvement is doing to address the problem of low achievement;
- An explanation of how the LPSD is addressing the school issue of low achievement;
- An explanation of how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement; and
- An explanation of the parent option to transfer their child to another public school (*with transportation provided by the LPSD*).

1. The LPSD Parent Notification Letter will include the six elements listed above. A copy of the notification letter to be sent to parents informing them of School Choice is included. The letter outlines options available to parents. Notification letters will be personalized for each school identified as a choice school.
2. The LPSD will accept and review all parental complaints. Each complaint will be received and acted upon by the appropriate supervisor. The LPSB Policy manual includes a Complaint Policy.

5. School Plan

The Lafourche Parish School District assures that all Title I schools identified for school choice shall within the start of the new school year develop or revise their School Improvement Plan, in consultation with parents, school staff, outside experts, and the local educational agency in accordance with ESSA guidelines.