

Parent Notification Letter Reynaud Middle School

June 25, 2009

Dear Family:

In accordance with Bulletin 111: The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System, federal law requires school districts to offer families in a school that has been identified as *Academically Unacceptable Schools* (AUS) or *Subgroup Component Failure Level 1* (SCF1) schools the option to transfer their children to other schools in the same district. Your child's school has been identified as a school in need of improvement and you are allowed to choose to enroll him or her in another school.

To help you understand how the school choice program works, here are some answers to some questions you may have.

Why is Reynaud Middle in AUS?

Reynaud Middle School's Baseline School Performance Score for 2008 was 58.8. The performance label for a school below 60 is "*Academically Unacceptable School*". Reynaud Middle School became an *Academically Unacceptable School* in 2005 with a baseline of 49.3.

What is Reynaud Middle School doing to address the problem of low achievement, and what are the school system and the State doing to help them address the problem?

The administration along with a state evaluation team has evaluated all areas of instruction at Reynaud Middle School. A scholastic audit was performed 2 years ago, followed by a Reconstitution Plan, and currently is working under a School Progress Plan developed during the 2008-2009 school year.

Additional assistance for Reynaud Middle School includes:

- Staffing with highly qualified teachers;
- The target student/teacher ratio will be 20 students per teacher;
- Additional support staff will include a curriculum assistant, instructional coaches, behavioral strategist, and full time In-School Isolation Program;
- Supplemental Education Services (Free After School Tutoring) are available for all eligible students who attend Title I Schools beginning their first year as a school in need of improvement. More information will be given after the start of school.

How can I become involved in addressing the problems which caused Reynaud Middle School to be identified as a school in need of improvement?

Families are encouraged to arrange a private conference with their child's teachers to discuss ways to improve academic performance. Families are also invited to participate as members of the School Improvement Team at Reynaud Middle School. The School Improvement Team is a group made up of the principal, teachers and parents that work to improve the education and overall learning experience for all students at Reynaud Middle School. Even if a family member does not serve as a member of the School Improvement Team, he or she may attend meetings of the team to discuss possible changes in any area of instruction to improve Reynaud Middle School.

Do I have to transfer my child to another school?

No. The decision is entirely up to you. The choice is optional, so you should base your decision on what you think is best for your child. If you choose another school, your child must remain at that school for the entire 2009-2010 school year.

To which “receiving” schools may my child transfer?

Not all of the schools in the district are approved to accept transfer students under the parish’s school choice plan. Your child may be eligible to transfer to S. J. Welsh Middle School under the majority to minority transfer policy. The deadline for applying for a majority to minority transfer is July 21, 2009. If you are interested in this transfer option, please contact the Calcasieu Parish School Board Child Welfare and Attendance Office at 217-4230 or 217-4000.

Calcasieu Parish “Receiving” Middle Schools

Middle School	Baseline SPS 2008
Arnett	102.2
Bell City	94.2
Maplewood	101.0
Moss Bluff	100.9

If you choose to have your child attend one of these schools, please rank the schools on the application form in the order of preference.

What if I want to transfer more than one child?

Because of space limitations and the various school combinations in our district, we may not be able to transfer every child to the same “receiving” school. The district will give your request consideration; however, there are no guarantees.

Is my child guaranteed a place in a “receiving” school?

Your child will be guaranteed a place at one of the schools that have met the guidelines as being a “receiving” school:

- Must have a Baseline School Performance Score of 80 or above;
- Must not be an “academic assistance” school.

Every effort will be made to give parents their first choice if requesting a transfer. In the event that this is not possible, your child will be assigned to a second or third choice as indicated on the School Choice Request Form. Your child is guaranteed a place at one of the schools that have met the guidelines as being a “receiving” school. Students will be granted enrollment in the schools above based upon enrollment limits, individual achievement scores, and income levels as prescribed by NCLB.

How will students be chosen?

Priority is given to lowest achieving students from low income families (based on free / reduced eligibility). Achievement is based on the student’s score on statewide assessment. The district plan assures that all qualifying students in Choice Schools are provided the option to move to a higher performing school. No eligible students will be denied school choice transfer.

How will my child get to a “receiving” school?

If your transfer is approved, your child will have transportation provided by the school district to the “receiving” school **for as long as your current school remains a school in need of improvement**. Once your child’s school is no longer considered a school in need of improvement, transportation may no longer be provided.

When will my child’s school exit AUS or SCF?

- A school exits *Academically Unacceptable School* status when its Baseline SPS is 60.0 or greater;

- A school exits *Subgroup Component Failure* when it passes the Subgroup AYP for two consecutive years in the subject that caused them to originally enter *Subgroup Component Failure*.

If my child's attendance zone school exits the *Academically Unacceptable School Category*, may my child remain at the "receiving" school?

The district will permit your child to remain in the "receiving" school until he/she completes the highest grade but the district will no longer be obligated to provide transportation.

How do I apply and what is the deadline for applying?

If you decide you want to send your child to one of the "receiving" schools, the enclosed *Choice Request Form* must be received in the CPSB Child Welfare and Attendance Office at 2423 Sixth Street in Lake Charles no later than July 21, 2009. If we do not receive the transfer form from you by July 21, 2009, your child will be enrolled at Reynaud Middle School.

When will I know if my transfer application is approved?

We will send official notification to you no later than August 10, 2009 regarding the status of your transfer application. Should Reynaud Middle School exit the *Academically Unacceptable School Category*, **school choice will not be an option for your child in 2009-2010.**

What if my transfer application isn't approved?

Every effort will be made to assign your child to the school that is your first choice. If this is not possible, your child will be assigned one of the additional choices as listed on the School Choice Request Form.

When may I visit the "receiving" schools?

An open house will be provided on a date to be announced.

Questions?

If you have further questions concerning the School Choice Program, you may contact:

Calcasieu Parish School Board
Child Welfare and Attendance
2423 Sixth Street
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601

Contact: Keith LeLeux, Director
Phone: 337-217-4230 or 337-217-4000
Fax: 337-217-4231
E-mail: keith.leleux@cpsb.org

Sincerely,

Wayne Savoy, Superintendent

Enclosure: *Choice Request Form*