

** Please provide justification if the number of students requesting Choice is more than the number of students receiving Choice.*

All students eligible for Choice are approved for Choice. The parent of the approved student transfer is notified by letter through the U.S. Mail and through a duplicate letter sent home with the student from the sending school. The parent then has permission to drop the student from the sending school and enroll the student in the receiving school. At this point in the Choice process, several things may occur. Some parents have decided to opt for SES, others have decided that the year is already going well at the current school, and a few did not fully understand that participating in Choice would require their children to attend schools farther away from home. Some parents simply do not act on the transfer approval within the established timelines.

** If the number of students requesting Choice is more than the number of students receiving Choice, please give more information on why students have not opted for School Choice.*

Possible reasons include travel time on the bus to the receiving school and not wanting younger children to pass through the transfer point and change buses en route. Additionally, depending on the family's circumstances, there may not be transportation (i.e., personal vehicle or city bus) available for the parent or caregiver to travel to the receiving school should the child become ill or discipline issues occur requiring the parent's presence. There seems to be a tendency for middle and high school students to want to remain at their current school once they have successfully completed their first year at the school. Finally, demand for Supplemental Educational Services (SES) in our district always exceeds the funding available. EBRPSS spends its entire set aside for SES each year. Some parents express verbally that they do not want to take the Choice option even though they have been approved because they are hoping to qualify for the SES tutoring.

2. For LEAs with Limited Capacity, did the LEA provide parents with at least two schools from which to choose to transfer their students within the district or, provide parents with information about additional services that will be provided in lieu of choice options?

- Yes
 No

If yes, what additional services were provided for the eligible students in lieu of choice?

Not Applicable

LEA:

3. # students were offered these services.
4. # students received these services.

Desegregation

If an LEA is subject to a desegregation plan, whether that plan is voluntary, court-ordered, or required by a Federal or State administrative agency, the LEA is not exempt from offering students the option to transfer [34 C.F. R. Section 200.44 (c)(1)].

5. Is the LEA operating under a court-ordered plan?
 Yes
 No
6. Does the desegregation plan limit the opportunity for students to transfer?
 Yes If yes, what actions has the LEA taken to meet school choice requirements? Provide documentation.
 No
7. Is choice offered within the parameters of the LEA's plan?
 Yes

- No If no, then the LEA needs to seek court approval for amendments to the plan that permit a transfer option for students enrolled in schools identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring. In accordance with NCLB:
 - o “If the LEA is unable to secure changes to the plan that permit a transfer option, the LEA will be out of compliance with Title I. If that occurs, it should notify the SEA and this Department of its request to the court and of the court’s decision.” [34 C.F.R. Section 200.44 (c) (3)]
 - o “If the plan has been agreed to with the Department’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR), OCR will work with the LEA to identify permissible amendments to the plan that will enable the LEA to comply with Title I public school choice requirements.”

Special Education and Choice

LEAs must ensure that students with disabilities are provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Title II) in their school of choice.

- 8. Does the LEA offer students with disabilities a comparable range of choice options?
 - Yes
 - No

- 9. If the LEA has limited choice capacity, and is providing additional services in lieu of choice, does the LEA offer a comparable range of alternative services to children with disabilities?
 - Yes
 - No

LEA Superintendent’s Signature Date Federal Program Director’s Signature Date

Fax this form to Barbara Foster at 225-342-3463. Or e-mail it to Barbara.Foster@la.gov by **Friday, March 6, 2009. Mail a hardcopy with SIGNATURES by **Friday, March 13, 2009** to:**

**Barbara Foster
Louisiana Department of Education
Office of School and District Assistance
Division of Educational Improvement and Assistance
P.O. Box 94064, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Barbara Foster at (225) 342-4776.