



# Stephens County School System

*Schools Committed to Student Success*

**Dr. Connie Franklin**  
Superintendent of Schools  
connie.franklin@stephenscountyschools.org

**Administrative Offices**  
191 Big A School Road, Toccoa, GA 30577  
(706) 886-9415

Dear Parents or Guardians:

**RE: Senate Bill 10 - Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Information**

Under the state law passed by Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents of students who receive special education may choose to transfer their child to another public school or private school in Georgia. As the parent of a student who receives special education in our school system, you are receiving this letter to inform you of your options to exercise public and private school choice.

**Public School Choice Options**

A parent may request a transfer to a school in another school system if there is available space in the system and the school has a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individualized education program. However, a school system must first agree to accept the student. If the parent chooses this option and the school system accepts the child, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to a school in that system.

A parent may also request a transfer to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a state school will depend on if that setting is appropriate for the student's needs. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the state school.

**Private School 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. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the State of Georgia.

For more information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and the parent application process, please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx>

Sincerely,

Brandy Stacy  
Director of Exceptional Children  
706-886-9415, ext. 1612