



BOARD OF EDUCATION
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March 15, 2023

RE: Georgia Special Scholarship

Dear Parent: As the parent of a student who receives special education services or has a Section 504 Individual Accommodation Plan in our school district, we would like to inform you about your option to exercise public and private school choice. Under a state law passed by the Georgia State Legislature, parents of students who receive special education services or 504 accommodations may request to transfer their child to another public or private school in Georgia if their child has an IEP/504 and has been enrolled for a full academic year in a Georgia public school. Three options are described below.

Public School Choice / Intra-School Transfer Option

A parent can request their child to transfer to another public school within their school district if there is available space at that school/program, and the school has a program with the services that are in the student's existing IEP/504 Plan. Please see link <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx> for complete student eligibility criteria. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation. Parents who wish to consider this option must submit the attached request form via email or U.S. mail by midnight on June 2, 2023 to:

Kitty Crawford crawfordkm@troup.org **subject line SB10**

Private School Choice Option

Parents who are interested in transferring their child to a private school in Georgia may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Scholarship. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the state of Georgia. Eligibility will be determined by using the scholarship calculator. Please go to Georgia DOE website - <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx>

Inter-District Transfers (Outside of School System) Option

Parents may request a transfer to a school in another school district if there is available space and the system/school has the program with the services in the student's existing IEP/504 Plan. If the parent chooses this option and the school district accepts the child, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation. If you are interested in your child attending a school in another system, please contact that system directly. 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 whether the setting is appropriate for the student's needs. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a State School.

If you are interested in the **Private School Choice Option** or the **Other Public School Choice Option**, please visit the Georgia DOE website at <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-NeedsScholarship-Program.aspx> for further directions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kitty M. Crawford, Director of Exceptional Education

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