



Gwinnett County Board of Education

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437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
www.gcpsk12.org

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

The Mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools

is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

April 2024

RE: Georgia Special Needs Scholarship

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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, and the school has a program with the services that are in the student's existing IEP/504 Plan. Consult the GCPS website for a list of schools that are eligible to accept student transfers:

<https://www.gcpsk12.org/schools/permissive-transfers/gwinnett-schools-accepting-permissive-transfers>

Parents who wish to consider this option must submit the request form U.S. mail by midnight on **June 7, 2024** to:

Gwinnett County Public Schools

ATTN: Special Education Department/GSNS

Fax: 678-301-7222

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW

Suwanee, GA 30024-2978

Request forms are located on the GCPS website: <https://www.gcpsk12.org/about-us/divisions-and-teams/academic-services/teaching-and-learning/special-education-and-psychological-services/georgia-special-scholarship-sb10sb47>. All requests will be reviewed simultaneously, and parents will be notified of the decision the week of **July 1, 2024**, via U.S. Mail. If the parent chooses this option and the request is approved, then **the parent shall be responsible for transportation.**

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 Needs 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 or a verification form on the GSNS website.

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 **any of the options listed above**, please visit the Georgia DOE website at <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx> regarding eligibility criteria, scholarship calculator, and additional information.

Gwinnett County Public Schools long and successful history of providing exceptional services to our students and their families is a legacy we are proud to share with you. We look forward to the opportunity to continue serving your child to the best of our ability both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicole White, Department of Special Education and Psychological Services