

January 8, 2025

VIA E-MAIL

RE: Public and Private School Choice for Students with Disabilities

Dear Parents or Guardians:

The [Georgia Special Needs Scholarship](#), is available for the 2025-2026 School Year, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § referred to as Senate Bill 10 (SB10). Under the State law passed by the Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents of eligible special education students 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 possible options to exercise public and private school choice.

Public School Choice Options

There are three public school choice options available to you, with different requirements, if you choose to select a different school other than the one your child is currently anticipated to attend for next school year, SY 2025-2026: (a) transfer within Henry County School District, (b) transfer outside of Henry County School District, or (c) transfer to a State Board of Education School.

- a. A parent may request a transfer to another public school within their school system as long as there is available space at that school and the school has a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individualized education program and the student meets the eligibility requirements (Grades 1-12). If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the school for the eligible student.
- b. A parent may request the eligible student 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 eligible student's existing Individualized Education Program (IEP). However, the other school system must first agree to accept the eligible 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.
- c. 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 students that qualify based on their needs. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the State school. Please visit the Georgia Department of Education's [website](#) for more information about transferring to a State School.

Request form

In alignment with Henry County Board of Education Policy JBCCA and Regulation JBBCA-R(1), the window for exercising one of the above public school options for the 2025-2026 school year is between

January 13, 2025 and January 31, 2025. The request form can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/HCS2526SchoolChoice>

Requests must be submitted by January 31, 2025 at 4:00 pm for consideration.

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. Note: tuition costs for these private school options would be the responsibility for the enrolling child's family. Additional information may be found at the [Georgia Department of Education's website](#).

Sincerely,

Emmaundia Ford
Executive Director | Exceptional Student Education