

**Harris County School District
House Bill 251
Public School Choice Framework**

Under House Bill 251, parents of K-12 public school students in Georgia now have the option to enroll their child in any school within the local school district in which they now reside. This document contains the Harris County School District's universal, streamlined process to manage such transfers and takes effect July 1st of each year.

A. House Bill 251

- a. The law itself has three distinct features:
 - i. A parent/guardian can elect to send a child to another public school in the same school district as long as there is classroom space available at the school after its assigned students have been enrolled;
 - ii. If a parent elects to exercise this choice option, the parent assumes all costs associated with transporting the child to and from the selected school; and
 - iii. A student who transfers to another school pursuant to this law may, at his or her election, continue to attend such school until the student completes all grades of the school.
- b. A prioritized list for student transfers is developed consistent with Federal and State laws including:
 - i. Students eligible for transfer under the unsafe school choice option (USCO) and students in Needs Improvement (NI) schools that must offer public school choice under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), will receive first priority for available seats at those schools in the district that are not in needs improvement (if applicable).
 - ii. State law gives twins or other multiples whose parents so request the right to be placed with siblings, if they meet the eligibility requirements of the class, unless there is factual evidence the students should be separated.
- c. If a parent requests a transfer to a school that does not have the services required by a current individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP), the school is not required to develop those services at an individual school as long as they are available within the school district.
- d. Any student transferring under this law shall be subject to the eligibility requirements of the Georgia High School Association.

B. Local Education Agency (LEA) Responsibilities

- a. By July 1, 2009 the universal streamlines process outlined herein will be available to all students to implement the new transfer requirements.
 - i. Parents will be notified by July 1st of each year of their options under the provisions of HB 251.
 - ii. The deadline to submit transfer requests will be July 14th or the first business day following the 14th of July should it fall on a non business day, as required by the law.
- b. By July 1 of each year, the district shall notify parents regarding which schools have available space and which of these schools parents may chose to request a