

HB 251 Public School Choice Framework

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. The law requires, among other things, that each school district implement a universal, streamlined process to manage such transfers by July 1 of each year.

A. Features of House Bill 251

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;

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;

A student who transfers to another school pursuant to this law may continue to attend such school until the student completes all grades of the selected school;

If a parent requests a transfer to a school that does not have the services required by the current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP), nothing in the law requires the school to develop those services as long as they are available within the local school district;

Any student transferring under this law shall be subject to the eligibility requirements of the Georgia High School Association.

B. Paulding County School District General Guidelines

Requests for Paulding County School District "School Choice" must be selected between **February 12, 2026 – February 27, 2026**. Please refer to HB251 – School Choice link on the website for more information.

Annual notification – By July 1 of each year, the Paulding County School District will notify parents regarding which schools have available space and which schools parents may choose to request a transfer for their children.

In the event a particular school has available space and the number of transfer requests exceeds the remaining available capacity, the school will conduct a random lottery that provides each interested student with an equal chance to be admitted.

A student who is granted a transfer may continue to attend that school through the highest grade of that school if the student maintains acceptable attendance, behavior, and academic performance. A transferring student who completes all grades available at the receiving school does not automatically receive enrollment preference to the feeder school. The local school district has discretion to determine the appropriate school for enrollment.

C. Defining Capacity at the School Level

The Paulding County School District defines available classroom as permanent classroom space. In defining available classroom space, the Paulding County School District may deny a parental request for transfer based on a lack of capacity for the following reasons:

- Capacity of the school building based on established health and safety provisions
- Class size capacity by grade and subject, based on State law and rule

In addition, the Paulding County School District may deny a transfer based on a lack of capacity to ensure students for whom Federal law provides a selected space.



[Information](#)

Please refer to
**HB251 -
School Choice**
link on website.

