



2009-2010 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Public School Choice Program

PARENT INFORMATION PACKET

Materials included with this envelope:

- Cover Letter and Application Guidelines
- Parent Information Packet
- Transfer Application Form
- Postage-paid, pre-addressed envelope

من فضلك اتصل بمنسق شؤون الآباء الخاص بك للحصول على هذه المعلومات مترجمة.

এ তথ্য-পঞ্জির অনুবাদের জন্য অনুগ্রহ করে আপনার প্যারেন্ট কোঅর্ডিনেটরের সাথে দেখা করুন।

請向您的家長專員索取本套資訊的翻譯版本。

Tanpri al wè Koòdonatè paran ki nan lekòl ou a pou l sa ba w tradiksyon dokiman sou enfòmasyon sa yo.

본 정보서의 번역본을 원하시는 분은 학부모 코디네이터에게 문의하시기 바랍니다.

За переводом данной информационной подборки обращайтесь к координатору по работе с родителями вашей школы.

Por favor comuníquese con su coordinador de padres para obtener una traducción de este paquete informativo.

برائے مہربانی اس معلوماتی پیکیج کے ترجمے کے لیے اپنے والدین ربط دہندہ سے ملیں۔

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME AND KEY DATES.....	1
MAKING CHOICES	2
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	
The Application Process	4
School Accountability.....	5
Transportation.....	6
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: WHERE CAN I GET HELP?	7



Do we have your current mailing address and phone number?
Please update your mailing address and phone number directly with your child's school.

WELCOME TO THE 2009-2010 NCLB PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

Your child is eligible to participate in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Public School Choice program because his or her school has been identified as a Title 1 School in Need of Improvement (SINI) or School Under Registration Review (SURR) according to achievement criteria set by New York State. The NCLB Public School Choice program gives parents of eligible students the opportunity to request a transfer to a non-SINI and non-SURR school.

Your child is eligible to participate because he or she is:

- ✓ Currently enrolled in a Title 1 SINI or SURR school, and
- ✓ Enrolled in grades K-7 or 9-11 and NOT in the last grade of the school.

For example, current 5th grade students in a K-5 school are not eligible to participate in the program because they are in the last grade of their school. All 8th grade students are not eligible. They participate in the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) High School Admissions Process.

As a result, there are two options available for your child:

- 1) Remain at the current school.

-- OR --
- 2) Request a transfer to a school that is non-SINI and non-SURR, and has available space for your child.

These schools are listed directly on the Transfer Application Form (included in the envelope). Choosing the right school for your child can be a rewarding experience. Enclosed with this packet you will find the tools that you need to help you make an informed choice.

KEY DATES

Date	Event
May 6, 2009-May 14, 2009	Parent Information Sessions (see next page for dates and locations)
Friday, May 22*	Deadline to submit Transfer Application Forms by mail.
Late June	Transfer Decision Letters mailed home to parents/guardians. (only for those students who submitted a Transfer Application)
Early July **	Deadline to submit Response Form by mail to accept or decline a transfer offer. (only for those students who receive a transfer offer)
September 8***	First day of 2009-10 school year: Students who accepted their transfer offer by mail will begin attending their new school.

* If you do not submit the Transfer Application Form by the deadline, we will conclude that you have chosen not to request a transfer. Your child will remain enrolled in the current school.

** If you do not submit the Response Form by the deadline, we will conclude that you have chosen to decline the transfer offer. Your child will remain in the current school.

*** Charter schools may begin prior to September 8, 2009. If your child receives a transfer offer to a public charter school, the Transfer Decision Letter will include the date of the first day of school.

MAKING CHOICES: THE 3 STEPS TO FINDING THE BEST SCHOOLS FOR YOUR CHILD

Finding the right school for your child can seem overwhelming, but it's worth it and the Department of Education can help. Read the information below before filling out the Transfer Application Form.

STEP 1: Attend a Parent Information Session

You are invited to attend a Parent Information Session. This is your opportunity to ask questions and receive valuable information about Public School Choice and the application process. We encourage all parents to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Interpretation services will be available.

Borough	Date	Time	School Site	Street Address
Brooklyn	Thursday, May 14	6-8 pm	Andries Hudde Junior High School	2500 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn	Monday, May 11	6-8 pm	Brooklyn Technical High School	29 Fort Greene Place
Bronx	Tuesday, May 12	6-8 pm	Roosevelt Educational Campus	500 East Fordham Road
Bronx	Wednesday, May 13	6-8 pm	Roosevelt Educational Campus	500 East Fordham Road
Manhattan	Wednesday, May 13	6-8 pm	Stuyvesant High School	345 Chambers Street
Manhattan	Wednesday, May 6	6-8 pm	Louis D. Brandeis High School	145 West 84 th Street
Queens	Wednesday, May 6	6-8 pm	Aviation High School	45-30 36 th Street
Queens	Thursday, May 7	6-8 pm	John Adams High School	101-01 Rockaway Blvd

STEP 2: Consider Your Child & Family

As you review the enclosed list of schools attached to the Transfer Application Form, ask yourself the following questions. Consider your child's experience at his or her current school as you answer these questions.

Your Child's Needs and Learning Style

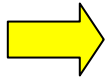
- How does your child learn best? Does he/she learn by using images, pictures, and maps to organize information? Does he/she learn best by reading and writing? Does he/she learn best by doing?
- Does your child need more challenging work? More individual attention?
- Does your child generally need extra help or more time to complete an assignment?
- Does your child like to learn in groups or does he/she prefer to work alone?
- Do you want your child to attend a school that is large and has a community that offers many academic and extracurricular options?
- Do you want your child to attend a school that is small and has a community where you will know most of the teachers and students?

Your Child's Daily Commute:

- Do you want your child to go to a school within walking distance of your home? Your work?
- How far are you willing to have your child travel? Would your child travel by bus, subway or car?

STEP 3: Do the Research

This section explains some of the tools that exist to help you to learn more about all NYC schools. We recommend that you take the time to carefully gather information about the schools that you are interested in.



Remember, you can only select a school that is listed in the Transfer Application Form

- **NYC School Surveys (Learning Environment Survey)** gather information about a school from teachers, parents, and students, for schools serving grades 6 -12. The surveys cover the following topics: safety and respect, academic expectations, communication, and parent, teacher and student engagement. To access the survey results for a specific school, visit: www.nyc.gov/schools/Accountability/SchoolReports



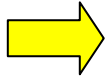
Survey Quest is a **new** online tool that allows parents to view a school's Learning Environment Survey results and compare them to the results of other schools. Find out how the schools you are interested in compare to your child's current school. Visit Survey Quest online: www.nyc.gov/schools/surveys/quest

- **Quality Reviews** provide more in-depth profiles of each school, based on 2-3-day visits by experienced educators who observe classes and talk to parents, students and staff. The Quality Review measures how well the school assesses student performance, improves student achievement, meets their academic goals and plans for staff development. Every school receives an overall Quality Review score of Outstanding, Well Developed, Proficient, Underdeveloped with Proficient Features, or Underdeveloped. To access the Quality Review for a specific school, visit: www.nyc.gov/schools/Accountability/SchoolReports
- **Progress Reports** grade each school with an A, B, C, D, or F to help you understand how well a school is doing — and compare it to other, similar schools. The Progress Report grade incorporates the results of the Learning Environment Survey and Quality Review, as well as academic performance data. Both the NYCDOE Progress Report and the NCLB accountability measures consider the results on the state exams and are meant to supplement each other. To learn more about Progress Reports, and to find the Progress Report for a specific school, visit: www.nyc.gov/schools/Accountability/SchoolReports
- **Find a School** on the NYCDOE website. The “Find A School” tool allows parents to search for a specific school and access the school's webpage. Each school's webpage contains basic contact, geographic, and program information as well as links to school reports and statistics. Contact schools in order to learn more about them, or to inquire about planning a school visit. The “Find A School” tool is located on the NYCDOE homepage: www.nyc.gov/schools

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: THE APPLICATION PROCESS

How do I request an NCLB Public School Choice transfer?

You must submit the Transfer Application Form (included in this packet) by mail before, May 22, 2009. The schools you may select are listed on the Transfer Application Form. Carefully read the instructions before marking any choices. The schools listed are "receiving schools" because they are not on the SINI or SURR list.



Remember, you can only apply to a school if it is listed in the application

Is this a mandatory program?

No, you are being provided with the option to request a transfer for your child. If you want your child to stay at his or her current school, check "NO, I would not like to request a transfer" in the "Requesting a Transfer" section of the Transfer Application Form.

Can I rank my school choices?

No. There is no ranking order on the application. Your child may be matched to any school that you choose to bubble in, so choose only those schools that you are willing to have your child attend. You may be offered a transfer to any of the schools that you select.

How is my child matched to a school?

Students are matched in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, which requires that the lowest-performing and lowest-income students have first priority.

Am I guaranteed a transfer offer?

No, there is a limited number of seats available at each school.

If I receive a transfer offer, do I have to accept it?

No, you do not have to accept the transfer offer. Please submit the Transfer Response Form to indicate that you are declining the offer.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Why was my child's school identified as a "School In Need of Improvement"?

The Federal NCLB law requires every state to set high academic standards and yearly goals for achievement. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is the minimum level of performance school districts and schools must achieve every year to meet this goal. Title 1 schools that do not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science and/or high school graduation rates for at least two years are placed on the state's list of Schools In Need of Improvement (SINI).

While some SINI schools have produced good results for many students, they have not sufficiently improved achievement for all students. In other cases, schools are included on the SINI list when an insufficient number of students participated in state-required tests.

Why was my child's school identified as a "School Under Registration Review"?

Every year the New York State Education Department places those schools that are farthest from meeting State standards and most in need of improvement under "Registration Review." Schools that are placed under Registration Review (SURRE) are subject to state-mandated interventions and must meet state-designated improvement targets within three years. SURRE schools that do not meet these targets may be subject to closure.

If my child transfers to a new school, will he/she continue to receive Supplemental Education Services (SES)?

No. Students currently eligible to receive SES will continue to be eligible as long as he/she remains in his/her current school. If you transfer your child to a different school through the NCLB Public School Choice program, your child will no longer be eligible to enroll in SES because he or she will no longer be attending a Title 1 SINI. Speak with your parent coordinator to find out more about SES.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: TRANSPORTATION

Will my child receive transportation?

Yes. Your child will receive transportation. Students who transfer to a different school under the NCLB Public School Choice program will receive transportation through the final grade of that school. Please refer to the chart below to understand the NYCDOE transportation guideline for NCLB transfers:

Walking Distance: Home to School	Grades K-2	Grades 3-6	Grades 7-12
Less than 1/2 mile	Full fare MetroCard	Full fare MetroCard	Full fare MetroCard
More than 1/2 mile, less than 1 mile	Yellow School Bus		
More than 1 mile, less than 1 ½ mile		Yellow School Bus	
1½ miles or more			

Note: Continued eligibility for General Education transportation is contingent on grade level and distance from the new school. For example, a Grade 2 student that transfers through the NCLB Public School Choice program and resides more than ½ mile but less than 1 mile from the new school is eligible for General Education transportation (yellow school bus). When this student begins Grade 3, he or she would be eligible for a free MetroCard for public transportation.

Special Education students who receive door-to-door transportation in accordance with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will continue to receive mandated transportation if they transfer to a different school through the NCLB Public School Choice program.

If I accept a transfer for my child, when will I be informed about transportation?

If you accept your offer, you can contact the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) during the last week of August for Yellow Bus information. OPT contact information is listed below. If your child will receive a MetroCard, it will be distributed by the school at the beginning of the school year. Returning your Transfer Response Form by the deadline allows OPT to schedule busing eligibility in a timely fashion.

What if we move after my child has transferred to a school through NCLB Public School Choice?

If your family moves after your child has transferred to a school through NCLB Public School Choice, your child will receive transportation based on the new address using the eligibility requirements listed above.

What if my child leaves the school he or she transferred into through NCLB Public School Choice?

The General Education transportation provided under NCLB would no longer be guaranteed. If a student leaves the school, busing eligibility would be in accordance with current NYCDOE transportation guidelines.



For additional information about transportation, contact an Office of Pupil Transportation Customer Service Agent at (718) 392-8855, or visit the OPT website at www.nyc.gov/schools/Offices/Transportation

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

The Parent Coordinator in your school is a valuable resource. You can find the phone number for your school on the NYCDOE website (<http://schools.nyc.gov>) or by dialing 311.

The Public School Choice Team works in the Office of Student Enrollment and is responsible for implementing the NCLB Public School Choice program. We are here to answer your questions and make sure you have access to the information you need at each step of the process.

Call us at (212) 374-5431

Email us at NCLB_PSC@schools.nyc.gov

Or find us on the internet at www.nyc.gov/schools/ChoicesEnrollment/ChangingSchools

The District Family Advocate is responsible for helping parents to access information and become active partners in their children's education. Contact information is located on the front page of the Transfer Application Form.

The Borough Enrollment Office handles registration, school assignment, transfers, and support for admissions processes. Contact information is located on the front page of the Transfer Application Form.

