

6Gx53-4.022 TITLE I - CHOICE:

I. Introduction

Public school choice is a required component of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) that offers students in low-performing Title I schools an opportunity to attend higher-performing schools, even as the low-performing schools are being improved. The schools identified for improvement will offer parents and students currently enrolled at those sites the choice to consider a school currently not identified for improvement for kindergarten and first grade. Students at these grade levels will be offered choice options to be effective in the 2004-2005 school year. Furthermore, students who remain at the schools identified for improvement will be offered supplemental services for the 2004-2005 school year.

II. Choice Options

A limited number of seats in kindergarten and first grade at the magnet and choice schools listed below will be made available to students attending Title I schools identified for improvement. The following is a list of schools as defined by magnet and choice attendance zones:

Community	School	Grades Served
Lakeland	Blake Academy	K-8
Lakeland	Lincoln Academy	K-5
Lakeland	Rochelle School of the Arts	K-8
Winter Haven	Brigham Academy	K-5
Winter Haven	Jewett School of the Arts	K-8
Haines City	Bethune Academy	K-5
Bartow	Bartow Academy	K-5

III. Title I Choice Application Information

A. Applications will be available for eligible students in kindergarten and first grade at the Title I school identified for improvement by August 5, 2004.

B. The Office of school Choice will accept applications from 8:00 AM on August 5, 2004 until 5:00 PM on August 25, 2004. Applications submitted by mail must be postmarked by August 25, 2004

IV. Sunset Provision

This policy provides for the admission of eligible students in kindergarten and first grade during the 2004-2005 school year only. Students admitted and enrolled

under the provisions of this policy may continue to attend the magnet or choice school until they have completed the highest grade served at that school site.

V. Title I Choice Guidelines for Phase One

A. Students who receive AYP seats at a magnet or choice school are not subject to existing articulation agreements with magnet or choice middle schools. These students may apply for admission to such schools through the regular magnet and choice application process.

B. Siblings of students who receive AYP seats are not eligible for an enrollment preference.

C. Students who receive AYP seats shall not lose their application status with respect to any magnet or choice school they apply for through the regular magnet and choice application process

D. Waiting lists under the regular magnet and choice process and any waiting lists for AYP seats are completely unrelated, and a student's position on one list will have no effect whatsoever on the student's position, if any, on the other.

E. A student with a disability that applies for an AYP seat at a magnet or choice school will need to have his or her individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan evaluated prior to enrollment to determine whether those services required under the IEP or 504 plan are available at the school. The availability of exceptional student education services offered may be a limiting factor.

F. AYP seats available at the magnet and choice schools will be assigned to ensure equity in racial balance at the school site. Priority will be given to the lowest achieving low-income children.

G. While there are no admission requirements into magnet and choice schools, individual school sites require parents and/or students to sign contracts of commitment and expectation, uniform policy, academics, and behavior. Failure to meet the criteria of the contracts may result in student dismissal from the magnet or choice school.

H. All magnet and choice schools serve targeted attendance areas. Applicants to a particular school must be able to provide

proof of residence within the targeted attendance area of that school.

I. If a student who receives an AYP seat at a magnet or choice school moves out of the targeted attendance area for that school during a school year, the student may remain at that school until he or she completes the highest grade served at that school site; transportation shall be solely the responsibility of the parent or guardian. In the alternative, such student may apply for an AYP seat at the magnet or choice school serving the student's targeted attendance area.

J. The District is not obligated to provide transportation for the student after the end of the school year in which the student's home school is no longer identified for school improvement.

Statutory Authority: Florida Statutes 1001.32, 1001.41, 1001.42, and 1001.43

Laws Implemented:

Adopted: September 21, 2004

Amended: