

June 25, 2009

Newton County Schools Announce House Bill 251 Procedures for School Choice

After reviewing guidelines provided by the Georgia Department of Education, the Newton County School System has identified three schools –Middle Ridge Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, and Porterdale Elementary--, as potentially eligible to receive students whose parents wish to transfer their child under the provisions of House Bill 251. The new statute allows Georgia parents to request to transfer their students to other schools in the district under certain circumstances. Newton County Schools has determined the tentatively seats available per grade level at each school as listed below:

TENTATIVE AVAILABLE SEATS

Grade	Middle Ridge Elementary	Oak Hill Elementary	Porterdale Elementary
Kindergarten	0	0	5
First Grade	0	0	5
Second Grade	0	0	0
Third Grade	0	0	1
Fourth Grade	5	9	6
Fifth Grade	0	0	0

Parents electing to exercise the choice option under HB 251 will assume all costs and responsibilities associated with transporting the child to and from the selected school, if the request is granted. The HB 251 Transfer Request Form must be completed and submitted to the school district by the close of the business day on July 16, 2009. Forms will be available at the Newton County Centralized Registration Office located at Clements Theme School, Monday through Thursday, from July 1-July 16, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, the HB 251 Transfer Request Form will be posted and available for download on the Newton County School System website homepage at www.newtoncountyschools.org.

Completed HB 251 Transfer Request Forms will be accepted at the Centralized Registration Office during the hours posted above or may be faxed to 770-784-4969. Applications may also be hand delivered to the receptionist at the Administrative Office Building of the Board of Education located at 2109 Newton Drive NE, Covington, Georgia, 30014.

After the July 16 deadline, no HB 251 transfer requests will be accepted for the 2009-2010 school year. Should the number of transfer requests for a school exceed the remaining available capacity, a public lottery will be held to determine which students receive slots.

Letters regarding the acceptance or denial of the HB 251 transfer request will be mailed to parents no later than July 24, 2009, with the exception of those who have requested transfers to a potentially eligible school that may also be a choice school under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Since the timeline for exercising choice under NCLB is ten days after the start of school, parents wishing to exercise a transfer

under HB 251 to a school that is also a NCLB choice school may not be notified until all students transferring under NCLB have been placed in classes.
