

*June 22, 2011*

**Newton County Schools Announce  
House Bill 251 Procedures for School Choice for the 2011-2012 School Year**

After reviewing guidelines provided by the Georgia Department of Education, the Newton County School System has identified eight schools as potentially eligible to receive students whose parents wish to transfer their child under the provisions of House Bill 251. Those schools are: East Newton Elementary School; Flint Hill Elementary School; Middle Ridge Elementary School; Oak Hill Elementary School; Porterdale Elementary School; South Salem Elementary School; Clements Middle School; and Veterans Memorial Middle School. No slots are available at the district’s three high schools for the 2011-2012 school year.

The statute allows Georgia parents to request to transfer their students to other schools in the district as long as there is classroom space available at the school after its assigned students have been enrolled. A student who transfers to another school pursuant to this law may elect to continue to attend such school until the student completes all grades of the school. Newton County Schools has determined the tentative seats available per grade level at each of the potential transfer schools as listed below:

**TENTATIVE AVAILABLE SEATS**

Grade	East Newton Elem.	Flint Hill Elem.	Middle Ridge Elem.	Oak Hill Elem.	Porterdale Elem.	South Salem Elem.	Clements Middle	Veterans Memorial Middle
Kindergarten	10	25	6	6	0	5	N/A	
First Grade	5	25	0	4	0	5		
Second Grade	0	25	5	10	0	5		
Third Grade	5	25	8	5	5	5		
Fourth Grade	5	25	10	0	5	5		
Fifth Grade	0	25	16	10	10	5		
Sixth Grade	N/A						10	10
Seventh Grade							15	15
Eighth Grade							15	15
<b>NO SLOTS AVAILABLE AT ALCOVY, EASTSIDE, OR NEWTON.</b>								

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. **Parents must complete an NCSS HB 251 Transfer Request Form and submit either by hand delivery to the receptionist at the Newton County Board of Education, located at 2109 Newton Drive NE, Covington OR by fax to 770-784-4969. The deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 18, 2011.** Transfer Request Forms will be accepted only for those tentatively eligible schools/grades listed. The HB 251 Transfer Request Form is posted and available for download on the Newton County School System website homepage at [www.newtoncountyschools.org](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org).

No HB 251 transfer requests will be accepted for the 2011-2012 school year after the July 18 deadline. 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 will be mailed to parents/guardians regarding acceptance or denial of HB 251 transfer requests no later than July 20, 2011.

For more information, please contact the Newton County School System Department of Student Services at 770-787-1330 ext. 1205.

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