

West Side Middle School

School Choice Information

September 7, 2010

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

Federal law requires school districts to offer families in schools that have been identified as in need of improvement the chance to transfer their children to other public schools in the same district. Your child's school has been identified as a school in need of improvement and you are allowed to choose to enroll him or her in another school. To help you understand how the choice program works, here are some answers to questions you may have.

Why was West Side Middle School identified as a "school in need of improvement" and how does it compare to other schools in Tangipahoa Parish and in the rest of Louisiana?

West Side Middle School was identified as a school in need of improvement because a subgroup of students did not meet performance goals established by the State in the area of standardized tests. This subgroup of students failed to make Adequate early Progress (AYP) in the same subject for two consecutive years as required by NCLB guidelines. West Side Middle School's School Performance Score is 75.3. The average School Performance score for Tangipahoa Parish is 85.4. The average state Performance Score is 91.0.

What is West Side Middle School doing to address the problem of low achievement, and what are the school system and the Louisiana State Department of Education doing to help them address the problem?

The faculty and staff at West Side Middle School are working to improve the school performance score by incorporating and implementing the new Comprehensive Curriculum Program. The Comprehensive Curriculum Program was developed to meet No Child Left Behind guidelines. This curriculum addresses state standards and best practices for instruction. We also have received additional funding which will assist in implementing new programs, in providing additional materials to our students, and providing staff development to our teachers and paraprofessionals.

How can I become involved in addressing the problems that caused West Side Middle School to be identified as a school in need of improvement?

An Open House at West Side Middle School has been scheduled to share with you how the faculty at West Side Middle School is working to improve the school performance score and ways parents can assist us in addressing School

Improvement issues. Further information on the meeting will be sent to you soon. Opportunities are afforded to parents to be involved with the education of their children: Parent teacher conferences, Parent Center, and District Parent Advisory Committee are available.

Do I have to transfer my child to another school?

No. We are providing families with this opportunity as an option. The decision is entirely up to you, so you should base your decision on what you think is best for your child. If you choose to have your child remain at West Side Middle School as registered, all you have to do is make sure he or she attends the school on the first day of class. If you do choose to transfer your child to the new school, he or she must remain there for the full school year.

To which schools may my child transfer?

Under the School Choice Program, students at West Side Middle School may choose to attend one of the following schools:

Roseland Elementary 12516 Time Avenue Roseland, LA 70456	2009-2010 School Performance Score <u>76.8</u>
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Independence Middle School 300 West 2 nd Street P.O. Box 97 Independence, LA 70443	2009-2010 School Performance Score <u>68.7</u>
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Nesom Middle School Hwy 442 West P.O. Box 280 Tickfaw, LA 70466	2009-2010 School Performance Score <u>81.7</u>
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Natalbany Elementary School 47370 N. Morrison Blvd. P.O. Box 9 Natalbany, LA 70451	2009-2010 School Performance Score <u>69.2</u>
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Your request for transfer must be put in writing and submitted by Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Please submit your request on the enclosed form by mailing it to:

Title I Resource Center
Attn: Theresa Hamilton, Title I Supervisor
500 East Pine Street
Amite, LA 70422

If you would like to deliver your letter personally, the Title I Resource Center is located across the street from Amite Elementary.

Transportation will be arranged the week of September 14, 2010. Choice will begin on Monday September 20, 2010.

If you would like more information about your options, please contact Theresa Hamilton, Title I Supervisor, at 748-2474.

Sincerely,

Deborah M. Forshag
Director of Federal Programs

/lfd

Request for Transfer

I request that my child, _____, be transferred
Child's Name

to _____.
School

I understand that once this transfer is made to this school, my child cannot return to West Side Middle School this school year.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

If transfer is to be granted this form must be returned by Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

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Attn: Theresa Hamilton, Federal Programs Supervisor
500 East Pine Street
Amite, LA 70422**