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Superintendent

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Director of Special Programs

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Dear Parents:

As the parent of a student who receives special education in our school system, we wanted to inform you of your options to exercise public and private school choice. Under a state law passed by the Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents of students who receive special education may choose to transfer their child to another public school or private school in Georgia. A requirement of the law is that we notify you once a year of your rights to exercise this choice. This letter serves as that notice to you and your family.

Public School Choice Options

A parent can request a transfer to another public school within their school system as long as there is available space at that school and the school has a program which is able to provide the services agreed to in the student's current individualized education program. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the school. This option is not available in our District since we only have one school serving each population based on the current grade of the student.

The parent may request a transfer to a school in another school system if there is available space and the school system agrees to enroll the student into a school within their system that has a program which is able to provide the services agreed to in the student's current individualized education program. If the parent chooses this option and the school system agrees to enroll the student, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to a school in that system.

The parent may also request a transfer to one of the State Schools for the Deaf and/or Blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a State school is contingent upon the determination that the placement is appropriate based on the needs of the student. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the State school. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a State school.

Private School Option

If you are interested in transferring your child to a private school in Georgia, you may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the State of Georgia. For more information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and the parent application process, please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/sb10.aspx>.