



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECOVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 1641 POLAND AVE., NEW ORLEANS, LA 70117
 (504) 373-6200 • www.rsdl.net



August 2, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child is eligible to participate in the Public School Choice program. Your child is eligible because his or her school has been identified as an Academically Unacceptable School (AUS) according to achievement criteria set by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) during the 2010-2011 school year. The Public School Choice program gives parents of eligible students the opportunity to request a transfer to a non-AUS school. You currently have two options:

1. Your child may remain at their current school; or
2. You may request to transfer your child to a non-AUS school.

The principal, teachers and staff at your child’s school are working hard to improve student achievement for all students. As you consider your options, speak with your child’s principal or teachers about the school’s improvement plan. If you choose to remain at your current school, speak with your school’s Principal or your child’s teacher about Supplementary Education Services (SES) your child may be eligible to receive. SES offers free after school enrichment services such as tutoring.

The tables below show all RSD direct-run schools that were identified as AUS and in need of improvement for the 2010-11 school year:

School	Status	Year	SPS	Stakeholder’s Involvement
G.W. Carver Elementary School	AUS	1	41.1	CLOSED 2011
Gregory Elementary School	AUS	1	43.8	
Greater Gentilly High School	AUS	1	47.3	
Rabouin High School	AUS	3	19.8	

School	Status	Year	SPS	Stakeholder’s Involvement
J. S. Clark High School	AUS	3	22.8	CHARTERED 2011
Reed Elementary School	AUS	3	50.7	

School	Status	Year	SPS
G.W. Carver High School	AUS	2	44.5
Walter L. Cohen High School	AUS	2	27.0
L. B. Landry High School	AUS	1	46.7
John McDonogh High School	AUS	3	38.5
Sarah T. Reed High School	AUS	3	36.2
Schwarz Alternative	AUS	3	6.2
Joseph A. Craig Elementary School	AUS	3	48.3
Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School	AUS	3	50.1
Murray Henderson Elementary School	AUS	1	57.1
Paul Habans Elementary School	AUS	1	62.1

“Rebuilding New Orleans Through Education”

Stakeholder's Involvement	
Parents	<p>As a parent/guardian you are a critical partner in school improvement. You are invited to work with the Recovery School District and your child's school to develop a successful school improvement plan, ensuring that student achievement increases.</p> <p>To facilitate school improvement, families are encouraged to arrange parent-teacher conferences to discuss ways to improve academic performance. Families are also invited to participate as members of their children's School Improvement Team (see below) to improve student achievement and school culture. Parents who do not serve on a school's Improvement Team are still invited to attend its meetings</p>
Schools	<p>All schools are required to assemble a School Improvement Team (SIT) comprised of school principal(s), select teachers, and parents who chose to join the team. Under the SIT, schools are responsible for implementing the following procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating and implementing literacy and math initiatives. 2. Providing extended-day programs for students. 3. Conducting professional development for teachers, specifically on research-based math and English instructional programs. 4. Conducting professional development for teachers on direct instruction. 5. Purchasing "Leveled Readers," part of research-based Guided Reading instruction. 6. Participating in the adoption of a district-wide Response-to-Intervention (RTI) program. 7. Implementing school-wide data-based decision-making and instruction.
District	<p>The Recovery School District will evaluate all areas of instruction within each school, drawing on information gathered from classroom observations, academic data, and surveys/interviews with students, parents, and teachers. This information will be used to identify areas of need and prepare each school's School Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Schools will use their plans to guide classroom instruction, teachers' professional development, and the implementation of supplemental literacy and math programs.</p> <p>Consultants will work with school staff to identify the most effective instructional practices for the school's student body.</p> <p>The Louisiana State Department of Education will assist schools, offering additional funding and technical assistance through the Regional Service Centers. This assistance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing schools with highly qualified teachers; • Providing schools with additional support staff, including TAP Master teachers, curriculum coordinators, and behavioral interventionists; • Supplemental Services and/or tutoring.

To help you understand how the choice program works, below are answers to parents' frequently asked questions:

When is a school identified as AUS?

A school falls into the category of AUS if it fails to meet state-set performance goals related to standardized test performance, attendance, and dropout rates and receives an SPS lower than 65.

For the 2010-11 school year, the average SPS for all Louisiana schools was 86.9. Among non-AUS high schools in the Recovery School District, the average SPS score for the 2010-11 school year was 80.4. The average SPS score among non-AUS elementary schools was 75.8 for the 2010-11 school year. Every school's School Performance Score (SPS) is listed in the Parents' Guide to Public Schools, as well as whether or not each school was deemed an Academically Unacceptable School (AUS).

Do I have to transfer my child to another school?

No, it is not mandatory that you request a transfer to another school, but you do have the option to do so.

If I request a transfer, is my child guaranteed a seat in another school?

If you request a transfer for your child, we will make every effort to offer your child a placement in a school of your choice. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of available seats at each school, so it may not be possible to accommodate all transfer requests.

How is my child matched to a school?

After reviewing the schools that you have selected for your child, matches are made according to seat availability and in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, which requires that the lowest performing and lowest income students have first priority.

To which schools can I request to transfer my child?

You can request to transfer your child to any of the schools included in this mailing.

What is the deadline for requesting a transfer?

You must submit the *Choice Request Form* by August 12th, 2011. You may submit the form at any of the Recovery School District's Parent-Family Resource Centers:

- Sarah T. Reed High School, 5316 Michoud Blvd., 8:00am to 4:30pm
- L.B. Landry High School, 1200 L.B. Landry Ave., 8:00am to 4:30pm
- Walter L. Cohen High School, 3520 Dryades St., 8:00am to 4:30pm
- George W. Carver Elementary School, 3059 Higgins Blvd., 8:00am to 4:30pm

The *Choice Request Form* is available at the Parent-Family Resource Centers. The form may also be downloaded from <http://www.rsdl.net/StudentsAndFamilies/Choice.aspx>.

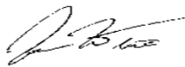
When will I know if my child's transfer request has been approved?

Parents will receive an official notification informing them of the status of their transfer request within 14 days of submission. If approved, students may start attending the assigned choice school as soon as official notification is received by parents. Once your transfer application is approved, your child will have free transportation to the receiving school.

If you have any additional concerns or questions about the School Choice Program, please contact the Recovery School District at (877) 343-4773.

I look forward to a successful 2011-12 school year for all students in the Recovery School District.

Sincerely,



John White
Recovery School District Superintendent