



Priority Schools: Choice / Transfer and Transportation

Presented by:
Michigan Department of Education

Presentation Overview

- Update schools on Choice/Transfer and Transportation Requirements for Priority Schools during 2013-14, based on amendments to ESEA Flexibility for Michigan
- Address details if schools elect this option in terms of requirements and considerations
- Point newly identified Priority schools to documentation and supports regarding this topic

Update on ESEA Flex

- Priority Schools and their districts are NO LONGER REQUIRED to offer Choice / Transfer & Transportation in 2013-14
- Priority Schools do not need to continue transportation for students whose parents had, in past years, chosen to transfer students under the Choice / Transfer option

Priority Schools: Choice/Transfer and Transportation

- Districts MAY elect to offer Choice / Transfer and Transportation
- Districts may determine the amount budgeted using Title I funds for transportation based on locally determined need and anticipated actual costs for transportation
- These should be identified in the Consolidated Application budget as Pupil Transportation Services - Function Code 271

Priority Schools: Choice/Transfer and Transportation

- Title I set-asides MAY NOT be used to pay for Choice / Transfer and Transportation costs.
- If districts elect to continue this practice from previous years, funds for this cannot come from set-asides - they must come from other portions of the Title I allocation.

Priority Schools: Choice/Transfer and Transportation

If a district elects to provide or pay for transportation costs to allow students in an identified Priority School from past years to continue to attend...

- The school must be one elected by parents in prior years (they cannot change schools)
- The district must have a written policy and procedures for implementation

Priority Schools: Choice/Transfer and Transportation

If a district decides to DISCONTINUE transportation of Choice students, or no longer allow students the Choice / Transfer option:

- Parents should be provided AT LEAST A 14 DAY NOTICE before the start of the school year

Priority Schools: Choice/Transfer and Transportation

Additional information and details can be found at MDE's Priority Schools page, including:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on Priority schools,
- Sample letters to parents regarding Priority school considerations and requirements, and
- Presentations on the required letter to parents for Title I Priority Schools, Priority school requirements and supports, and other related information.

Priority Schools: More Information on Choice/Transfer

- If offered, school options cannot include other Priority schools identified in either 2012 or 2013, or Focus schools identified in 2013
- Also, the letter to parents must provide notice that transportation will be subject to certain cost limitations, and notice that priority is given to lowest-achieving children from low-income families for transfer if a district receives more applications than can be accommodated
- Districts must submit proof of documentation that information was sent in a timely manner

Priority Schools: More Information on Choice/Transfer

- Future communication will be sent to notifying districts to upload copies of signed letters, Choice / Transfer Request forms (if applicable), and other documentation through GEMS (MDE Grant Electronic Monitoring System)
- Districts must retain copies of all documentation that supports compliance with these requirements

Priority Schools: More Information on Choice/Transfer

- For more information, contact:

Jill Thompson - Information for Choice/Transfer
and Transportation

MDE Office of Education Improvement and
Innovation (OEII)

517-373-4226

ThompsonJ17@michigan.gov