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**Start Elementary School
School Choice Information
March 1, 2023**

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

Federal law requires school districts to offer families in schools that have been identified as a “school 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 Start Elementary School identified as a “school in need of improvement” and how does it compare to other schools in Richland Parish and other schools in Louisiana?

According to Louisiana State guidelines, Start Elementary School has been deemed a school in need of improvement, with a letter grade of “D”. This letter grade is based on the school data from the 2022-2023 school year.

What is Start Elementary School doing to address the problem of low achievement, and what are the school system and the Louisiana Department of Education doing to help them address the problem?

- Staffing with highly qualified teachers
- Effective professional development programs for all instructional staff based on best practices targeting student engagement and academic success
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) for students
- Tier I (state approved) curriculum that is aligned with the Louisiana Standards in Math and ELA in all grades
- After school tutoring
- Computer labs, chromebooks, and specific programs are used to provide technology access and to provide remediation opportunities.
- Parent centered ELA and Math nights each semester
- Data driven instruction and RTI
- Cultivating a culture of high expectations

- Celebrating Success –rewarding students that score Mastery or above on standardized test
- Parent resource room with computer/internet access and materials available for parent checkout

How can I become involved in addressing the problems that cause Start Elementary to be identified as a school in need of improvement? Families are encouraged to arrange a private conference with their child’s teachers to discuss ways to improve academic performance. Families are also invited to participate as members of the School Improvement Team at Start Elementary School. The School Improvement Team is a group made up of the principal, teacher and parents that work to improve the education and overall learning experience for all students at Start Elementary School. Even if a family member does not serve as a member of the School Improvement Team, he or she may attend meetings of the team to discuss possible changes in any area of instruction to improve Start Elementary School.

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 attend school at Start Elementary School, continue with the registration process as required. If you do choose to transfer your child to the new school, he or she **must remain there for the full school year.** **Once Start Elementary School becomes academically acceptable, students will return to Start Elementary.**

To which schools may my child transfer?

Under the School Choice Program, students at Start Elementary School may choose to attend one of the schools listed on the application (see last page). Please note that the letter grades listed are from last year. If you choose to have your child attend one of these schools, please select your first and second choices, with your **first choice as #1**, and your **second choice as #2** on the enclosed choice form. These schools have higher School Performance Scores than Start Elementary School.

What if I choose to have my child continue to attend Start Elementary School?

You would continue to send your child to Start Elementary School as registered.

Is my child guaranteed a place in an accepting school?

Every effort will be made to give parents their first choice if requesting a transfer. However, it is possible that your child may not be granted enrollment in your first school of choice. Students will be granted enrollment in a school based upon **enrollment limits, individual achievement scores, and income levels as prescribed by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).**

Will my child be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the new school?

Your child will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the school.

How will my child get to a receiving school?

If your transfer application is approved, your child will have free transportation to the receiving school. Transportation will be provided by the Richland Parish School Board. Should your child become ill and need to go home early, parents must provide transportation home. Transportation will not be provided for the child to attend activities before or after school such as extra-curricular activities or for parents to attend parent meetings and evening programs.

Bus pick-up could be as *EARLY as 5:45 AM*. Return home could be as *LATE as 5:00 PM*.

What is the deadline for applying? Thursday, April 6, 2023

You may return your Choice Request form to the Richland Parish School Board office prior to **Thursday, April 6, 2023**. An application may also be mailed to the following address:

Richland Parish School Board
Attn: Christy Hendrix
PO Box 599
Rayville, LA 71269

The applications must be postmarked by **April 6, 2023** to be considered.
You may submit an application through the Richland Parish website – <https://richland.k12.la.us>.

Applications WILL NOT be accepted after 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

When will you tell me if my transfer application is approved?

Parents will receive an official notification by **Wednesday, April 12, 2023**, informing them if their choice request is approved.

Sincerely,

Christy Hendrix

Christy Hendrix
Director of Federal Programs
318-728-5964 ext. 262