

### What is public school choice and how do I know if my child is eligible?

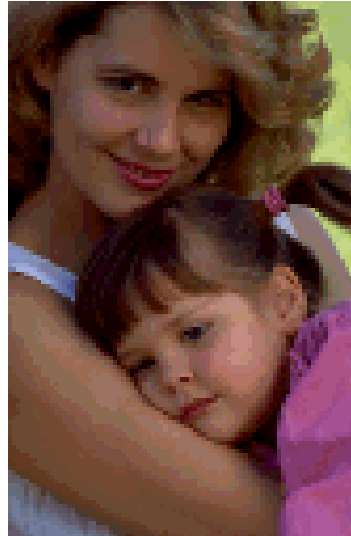
Public school choice is a provision of the *No Child Left Behind* Act that allows parents to transfer their children out of schools that are identified as in need of improvement into schools that are not identified. School districts are required to provide you with notification that your child's school either has not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two consecutive years and is identified for school improvement prior to the beginning of the year following identification. OSPI is also required to publish a list of schools that have not made adequate yearly progress.

### If my child is in a school that is identified for school improvement, how can I get help?

If your child's school is identified for school improvement, your school district must provide the option to transfer your child to a school, within the district, if possible that is not identified for school improvement. Transportation is provided or paid by the school district.

### If I transfer my child to a school that is not identified for school improvement, how long does the transfer remain in effect?

Once a child has transferred to another school as a result of school choice, the school district must permit the child to remain in that school until the child has completed the highest grade in that school. However, the obligation to provide or pay for transportation for the child ends at the end of the school year when it is determined that the school from which the child transferred is no longer identified for school improvement.



### What if my child's school does not make AYP for two consecutive years and is identified as in need of improvement but my district has not contacted me with a list of options?

If your district has not contacted you, then you should contact your district officials as well as our office. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's website provides a listing of district officials and contacts for schools across the state.

### What is *adequate yearly progress* and how is it determined?

Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is the level of proficiency that schools must achieve each year. School progress is monitored in reading and math across the following subgroups: *All Students, Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, White, Bilingual, Disabled, and Disadvantaged*. School progress is measured against a state-defined uniform bar. Incremental progress towards our state-defined uniform bar ensures that all students in all schools will be performing at high standards. It also aligns our state with the goal of NCLB: that all students will be at 100% proficiency by 2014.

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed his education plan, *No Child Left Behind*, into law. The law united both political parties behind the principle that schools must be held accountable for their results and that every child must learn. As part of that law, when a disadvantaged child is attending a low-performing school, federal funds can be used, at the request of the parents, to transport that child to a school that is not low-performing.



What does the term *in need of improvement* mean?

Under *No Child Left Behind*, every state must set the goals that each school must meet. If a school does not make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years that school becomes identified for school improvement.

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# A Parents' Guide

## Public School Choice



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