



A Parent's Guide to: The No Child Left Behind Act: **School Choice**

Parents and schools
working together for
student achievement.

The SD Parent Resource Network is an affiliate of Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement.

What is school choice?



Parents of children enrolled in Title I schools identified as in need of improvement status have the option to transfer their child to another public school within the same district that is not in school improvement.

Schools that do not meet the minimum level of performance and do not make adequate progress for two consecutive years will be identified as a school in improvement status. The student population as a whole, as well as, certain identified groups of students must achieve minimum levels of progress annually.

Eligibility for School Choice



All parents are offered the option to transfer, but if needed, priority is given to students who are struggling academically in reading or math and who are from low income families .

Choice is also an option for children who attend a “persistently dangerous school” as defined by the South Dakota Department of Education or if they have been the victim of a violent crime on the grounds of their school.

School Choice Notification



Your child's Title I school is required to notify you if your child is eligible for school choice. This notice should occur no later than the first day of school.

The District will pay for or provide transportation to the new school until the original school is no longer classified as in improvement or until their financial responsibility has been met.

Your child can remain at their new school until they have completed the highest grade available.





Transfer vs. Staying

Most of our rural South Dakota school districts do not have the option of providing choice to families. Even in those larger districts where choice is available, families can and often do decide to stay at their present school. In these situations, some schools may choose to offer supplemental services. Supplemental services provide extra academic help outside of the school day in reading or math.

Parent Responsibilities

You, as a parent, have always played a significant role in the education of your children. Whether your child's school is in improvement or making steady academic progress—you need to stay informed and involved.

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Additional parent guides on No Child Left Behind include:

- ★ No Child Left Behind: A Parent's Guide
- ★ Standardized Tests
- ★ School Improvement
- ★ School Choice
- ★ Content Standards
- ★ Accountability and Reporting
- ★ No Child Left Behind Glossary
- ★ Report Cards

For more information, please contact any of the following—

- ★ **Your local school district**
- ★ **The South Dakota Parent Resource Network toll free at 1-800-219-6247**
- ★ **South Dakota Department of Education at 605-773-4716**
- ★ **The U.S. Department of Education toll free at 1-800-814-6252**

South Dakota Resource Network

PO Box 218 ★ Sturgis, SD 57785-0218 ★ Phone: 800-219-6247 ★ Fax: 605-347-5223 ★ www.sdprn.org

