

NCLB School Choice Sanctions

The public school accountability system created by Florida's A+ Education Plan is producing the greatest student achievement gains in the nation. By setting high expectations, refusing to lower standards and adopting a "No Excuses" attitude, Florida has been one of the USDOE's strongest partners in the implementation of NCLB.

Given that Florida already has an extensive school choice program in place that provides the widest array of public school choice options in the nation, Florida will also lead the way in providing "**meaningful choice options**" to the parents of our lowest performing students in response to the NCLB/School Choice requirements for Florida schools not making AYP for two consecutive years.

Consistent with the intent and requirements of public school choice with transportation to all students attending Title I schools identified as "in need of improvement" for not making AYP for two consecutive years, Florida will require all school districts to:

- 1) Identify all Title I schools as "in need of improvement" who have not met AYP for two consecutive years.
- 2) Prioritize the students, by school, to identify the lowest performing students as identified by scoring Level 1 on the reading or math portion of the FCAT.
- 3) Conduct a self-assessment of the district's choice plan and additional choice options provided under Florida law to ensure that all students who scored Level 1 on the FCAT in reading or math and who attend Title I schools "in need of improvement" have meaningful choice that include more than one option.
 - a) If it is determined that not all of the above students, have meaningful school choice options, then the district must:
 - i) Review/revise their choice plan to provide such options.
 - ii) Expend an amount equal to 20% of their Title I, Part A allocation or a lesser amount, if needed) to create intensive programs as quality choice options within the existing schools.
 - iii) Expend an amount equal to 5% of their Title I Part A allocation to offer supplemental educational services.
 - iv) Expend an amount equal to 15% of their Title I Part A allocation (or a lesser amount, if needed) to provide choice with transportation.
- 4) Submit the completed self-assessment to the Department of Education within the prescribed timelines.

In short, Florida intends to allow our LEAs the option to implement the school choice requirements of NCLB through the vehicle of Florida's existing and extensive choice system. In providing our LEA's the full flexibility allowed under law to modify their existing school choice and controlled open-enrollment plans we eliminate the potential conflict faced by those LEA's operating under court-ordered desegregation plans, make for a smoother implementation process and reduce potential conflict created by, what might otherwise prove to be, significant disruption of schools in our state.