

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



John L. Winn
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

DATE: May 19, 2006

SUBJECT: No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Choice Options

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, school districts are required to set aside an amount equal to 20 percent of their Title I funds to provide school choice options for eligible students attending Title I schools identified as in need of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Districts must use an amount equal to five percent of their Title I allocation to provide choice with transportation and an amount equal to five percent of their Title I allocation to provide supplemental educational services (SES). The remaining amount equal to ten percent of the allocation must be used for transportation, SES, or both as determined by the school district.

Pursuant to K12 memorandum #2006-07, dated January 25, 2006, school districts were provided an opportunity to request authorization to reallocate any remaining portion of the 20 percent set aside if the district could document that a lesser amount was needed to provide school choice options according to NCLB, and the school district could document it had fully met the demand for one or both options. Superintendents could request authority to reallocate any remaining funds for other allowable activities that would increase student achievement of the lowest performing students in Title I schools.

CHERI PIERSON YECKE, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR, K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Many superintendents requested authorization for the release of the unused portion of the 20 percent set-aside by submitting either *Form A: Assurance/Documentation of NCLB Choice for Release of Required Set-Aside* for the release of Title I, Part A funds, or *Form B: Assurance/Documentation of NCLB Choice for Released of Required Set-Aside* for the release of non-Title I funds set aside for implementing NCLB choice. Superintendents submitting Form A or Form B certified that the district:

- appropriately notified parents of the available options in understandable formats and multiple forums
- offered parents a reasonable amount of time to investigate their options before submitting their request
- used various measures to ensure that parents and students are provided the opportunity to utilize the option of their choice, including re-opening enrollment for SES if a documented need exists but participation rates are low

On May 16, 2006, the State Board of Education adopted an action plan for the approval of districts' requests for authorization to reallocate remaining funds from the 20 percent set aside of their Title I, Part A, allocation designed to provide school choice options set forth in Section 1116 of NCLB. This action plan authorizes the Department to approve those districts that reported at least 50 percent of their eligible students participated in state-approved supplemental educational services (SES) program during the 2005-2006 school year. Please see Attachment A.

Districts that requested authorization to reallocate the unused portion of the 20 percent set-aside, but reported less than 50 percent participation in the state-approved SES program, must complete and submit the attached form (Attachment B) to the Department describing (1) the extent of the district's outreach program to inform parents and enroll eligible students with state-approved SES providers; and (2) any extenuating circumstances that impacted student participation during this school year. Department staff will review each district's documentation and make recommendations regarding approval of the district's request. Please submit the form as soon as possible, but no later than noon on May 26, 2006.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mary Jo Butler via e-mail at maryjo.butler@fldoe.org or Kay Caster via e-mail at kay.caster@fldoe.org or by telephone at 850.245.0479.

CPY:MJB:seo

Attachments

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum and Instruction
District Title I Coordinators
District SES Contacts

Florida Department of Education
NCLB Public School Options
Student Participation for the 2005-2006 School Year

DOE USE ONLY	
Date Received _____	2006
Recommend Approval	
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no

I. PARENT OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Date of Mailed Parent Notification(s) of Options

Letter 1: _____

Letter 2: _____

Letter 3: _____

Deadline for Parents to Notify District of Choice Selection

Deadline: _____

Deadline: _____

Deadline: _____

Newsletter or Backpack Notices

Date: _____

Date: _____

II. ADDITIONAL MEASURES USED TO INFORM PARENTS OF CHOICE OPTIONS:

Provider Fairs:

Date: _____

Number of Parents Participating: _____

Date: _____

Number of Parents Participating: _____

Date: _____

Number of Parents Participating: _____

Informational Meetings:

Date: _____

Number of Parents Participating: _____

Date: _____

Number of Parents Participating: _____

Public Service Announcements/Newspaper Press Releases/School Newsletter Dissemination

Dates of Release: _____

Phone Calls to Parents:

Date Range of Phone Calls: _____ Number of Parents Called: _____

Re-Opened Enrollment for SES:

Letter 1: _____

Deadline: _____

