Public School Choice

Illinois State Board of Education

Grants and Programs Division

edited by Evelyn Deimel
July 2009
Federal/State Requirements

- **Federal System - No Child Left Behind (NCLB):**
  - Choice
  - Supplemental Educational Services (SES)
  - Corrective Action
  - Restructuring

- **State System:**
  - Academic Warning List
  - Academic Watch List
# NCLB Progression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED ACTION AFTER FAILURE TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS</th>
<th>after 2 yrs.</th>
<th>after 3 yrs.</th>
<th>after 4 yrs.</th>
<th>after 5 yrs.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public School Choice</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental Educational Services</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corrective Action</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restructuring</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Public School Choice

Students are offered the option to transfer to a higher performing school within the district.

Supplemental Educational Services

Services (tutoring) are provided to low income student outside of school day.
Corrective Action

At least one of the following actions will be implemented:

- Replace school staff relevant to adequate yearly progress;
- Institute and fully implement a new curriculum, with appropriate professional development for all relevant staff;
- Significantly decrease management authority at the school level;
- Appoint an outside expert to advise the school on its progress toward making adequately yearly progress, based on its school plan;
- Extend the school year or school day; or
- Restructure the internal organizational structure of the schools
Restructuring

School must be restructured using one of these options:

- Replace principal/most staff
- Management by outside entity
- Charter School
- State takeover
School Improvement Plans

1. There is an increased emphasis on planning for all schools.

2. Schools involved in school improvement status write a two-year plan.

3. School Improvement Plans will be approved by the local board of education and reviewed by ISBE.

4. Regional System of Support Providers (RESPO) assist schools in status with their School Improvement Plans.
IS THIS SCHOOL IN STATUS?

- 2009 AYP Status Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Tested on State Tests</th>
<th>Percent Meeting/Exceeding Standard*</th>
<th>Other Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% Met AYP</td>
<td>% Met AYP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State AYP Minimum Target</td>
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<td>95.0</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
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<td>Multiracial/Ethnic</td>
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<td>Students with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
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# 2009 AYP Status Report

## 2009 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status Report

**Calculated based on 07/15/09 Approved Assessment Data and E-report Card 86-43 Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is this school making AYP?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this school making AYP in reading?</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this school making AYP in mathematics?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has this school been identified for School Improvement according to the AYP specification of the federal No Child Left Behind Act?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10 Federal Improvement Status</td>
<td>Choice SES</td>
<td>Academic Early Warning Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10 State Improvement Status</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>------------------------------</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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<td>ALL</td>
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Why is Choice important?

1. Improve student learning and equity
2. Decrease racial isolation and improving school integration
3. Increase district budgets because of increasing student population and average daily attendance
4. Increase parent support and involvement in schools
5. Provide alternative types of learning environments that may better match children’s needs
6. Encourage the creativity of educators
7. Promote focused cohesive school programs
8. Spur school improvement through competition
NCLB Title I
Choice Requirements

- Children are eligible for school choice when the Title I school they attend has not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two consecutive years or longer.

- Any child attending such a school must be offered the option of transferring to a public school in the district—which may be a public charter school—not identified for school improvement.

- The district must provide or pay for the transportation.
Notifying Parents

At a minimum, this notification must include:

1. An explanation of what the identification means, and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement to other schools

2. Reasons for the identification

3. An explanation of how parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that led to the identification

4. An explanation of the parents’ option to transfer their child to another public school, including the provision of transportation to the new school

5. The explanation of the parents’ option to transfer must include, at a minimum, information on the academic achievement of the school or schools to which the child may transfer
Each board shall have a policy regarding the transfer of students.

A parent that chooses the option to transfer his/her student must complete a Student Transfer Form that the school district creates and submits to ISBE with the Public School Choice letter for review and approval.
What is required if none of the schools in the district can accept transfer students?

- Contact neighboring districts to see if they are willing to accept transfer students through a cooperative agreement.
- Contact with neighboring districts should be done annually and in writing.
Are schools required to notify parents if there is no option for transfer?

- Parents must *still* be notified.
- The notice should include the same essential elements required of school districts with options to transfer.
- SES may be offered to low income students if no option for choice is available.
Length of Time for Choice

- A district must permit the student to remain in the new school until the student has completed the highest grade in the school.

- However, the district is no longer obligated to provide transportation when the student’s school of origin is no longer identified for improvement.
Paying for Choice and SES

Unless a lesser amount is needed to satisfy all requests for supplemental educational services, a local educational agency shall spend:

an amount equal to 20 percent of its allocation.

- (i) an amount equal to 5 percent of its allocation to provide, or pay for, transportation;

- (ii) an amount equal to 5 percent of its allocation under subpart 2 to provide supplemental educational services; and

- (iii) an amount equal to the remaining 10 percent of its allocation for transportation, supplemental educational services, or both, as the agency determines.
Parents can choose for their children to -

- Stay in the home school - given information on what brought about change in status and what is being done to improve.

- Transfer to another school.

- (3rd year) Choose tutoring services from the list of state approved providers, if their children are eligible.
Public School Choice Summary

Schools in School Improvement Status:

- Reserve an amount equal to 20% of Title 1 funds
- Notify parents at least 14 days prior to the first day of school of their child’s option to transfer
- Offer all students in the school the option to transfer
- Provide or pay for transportation to the new school
PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE IN ILLINOIS

(This report does not include Chicago Public Schools Data)

124 School Districts with a total of 234 schools in Federal status

73 schools in School Improvement (Public School Choice only)
33 schools remained in School Improvement (Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services)
14 schools in Corrective Action (Public School Choice, Supplemental Educational Service, and Other Activity)
27 schools in Restructuring (Public School Choice, Supplemental Educational Service, and Other Activity)
87 schools remain in Restructuring (Public School Choice, Supplemental Educational Service, and Other Activity)
PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE IN ILLINOIS
survey in spring of 2009

(This report does not include Chicago Public Schools Data)

124 School Districts with a total of 234 schools in Federal status

29 of the 124 school districts could offer parents the option to transfer (23%)
26 of these 29 school districts completed the survey (90%)

FINDINGS:
Of the 26 school districts that reported –

- 45,432 students were eligible to transfer
- 341 students transferred (.75%)
- 89 schools were in status (38%)
Additional Information

ISBE homepage:  www.isbe.net


USDE homepage:  www.ed.gov

Other Resources:  http://www.schoolmatters.com
                  http://www.greatschools.net

Resource Manual for School Improvement/RESPRO Information:  

Carol Diedrichsen:  cdiedric@isbe.net  (School Improvement)

Evelyn Deimel:  217/524-4832 or edeimel@isbe.net