

Mrs. Michele Summerlin  
Executive Director  
Exceptional Education



Dr. Devon Q. Horton  
Superintendent

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As the parent of a 504-eligible student in the DeKalb County School District, this letter serves to inform you about your option to exercise public and private school choice. Under a state law passed by the Georgia State Legislature, parents of students who receive services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 may request to transfer their child to another public or private school in Georgia if eligibility criteria are met.

Three options are described below.

### **DCSD School Choice Option**

A parent can request for their child to transfer to another public school within the DeKalb County School District if there is available space at that school/program. **It is important to note that the application process is online, and selection is via lottery and based upon seat availability only.** If this option is selected, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation. Please consult the DCSD School Choice website for more information.

<https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/school-choice/>

### **Private School Choice Option**

Parents who are interested in transferring their child to a private school in Georgia may be able to take advantage of the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship (GSNS). These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the state of Georgia. Eligibility will be determined by using the scholarship calculator, parent inquiry form or verification process. Please go to Georgia DOE's website -

<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx>

### **Out-of-District Transfer Option**

Parents may request a transfer to a school in another school district if there is available space and the system/school has the program with the services in the student's existing 504 Plan. If the parent chooses this option and the school district accepts the child, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation. If you are interested in your child attending a school in another system, please contact that system directly.

A parent may also request a transfer to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a state school will depend on whether the setting is appropriate for the student's needs. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a State School.

If you are interested in the Private School Choice Option or the Other Public School Choice Option, please visit the Georgia DOE website at <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx> for further directions.