



DR. JAMES R. HINES, JR., SUPERINTENDENT

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April 21, 2011

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

This letter is intended to provide information concerning options available to your child under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is a measure of year-to-year student achievement on statewide assessments. Schools that do not meet the AYP state standard for two or more consecutive years are placed in Needs Improvement (NI) status.

Northside High School made AYP for the 2008-2009 school year, but did not in 2009-2010. Therefore, Northside High School is currently under a Needs Improvement (NI) status. Students attending a school that is currently in Needs Improvement status have the option of transferring to another high school that does not have the NI status. This transfer option is known as **Public School Choice**. In order to have the Needs Improvement status removed, a school must make AYP for two consecutive years. Those students that have exercised the right to school choice in the past will receive separate notification regarding renewal of school choice.

Under this provision of the law, the school district has certain obligations to provide or pay for transportation to the choice school. Houston County will provide transportation based on the U.S. Department of Education's Guidance that all school systems should provide bus transportation for students who opt for Public School Choice. However, if there are not enough funds to transport all students who request transportation, the district will give priority to the lowest achieving, low-income students who request transportation. Students selecting the Choice option will have the opportunity to ride their regular routed bus from home to Northside High School and will then be shuttled to their school of choice and back home at the end of the school day.

Northside High takes pride in the educational opportunities they are able to provide for students. Teachers and staff members work very hard to meet the needs of all students. Evidence shows that students are learning and making good progress, and we consider this to be an important indicator of success. Northside High has also developed a plan for improvement that focuses on the academic achievement of all students, and in accordance with ESEA, specifically addressing the areas of need: mathematics and graduation rate.

*Additionally, Northside High School will offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) or free tutoring to eligible students as required under ESEA for the 2011-2012 school year. We also know that parental involvement is a key component for student achievement. NHS offers many opportunities for parents to be involved in the educational process such as School Council, Parent Action Team, parent meetings and workshops.*

Students zoned for Northside High School may elect to remain at NHS or because of the NI status may choose to transfer to one of the following schools: **Warner Robins High School** or **Houston County High School**.

**Warner Robins High School (WRHS)**

WRHS has operated as a Title I school since 2009, made AYP in 07-08, 08-09, and 09-10.

WRHS is a Title I Distinguished School. In 2009-2010, WRHS performance on the GHSGT was as follows:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">11th Grade - GHSGT Mathematics</a>           | 93 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |
| <a href="#">11th Grade - GHSGT English Language Arts</a> | 90 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |
| <a href="#">11th Grade - GHSGT Science</a>               | 92 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |
| <a href="#">11th Grade - GHSGT Social Studies</a>        | 81 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |
| <a href="#">Georgia High School Writing Test</a>         | 92 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |

**Houston County High School (HCHS)**

HCHS has operated as a non-Title I school in the 2010-2011 school year, did not make AYP in 07-08, however, HCHS did make AYP in 2008-09 and 09-10. HCHS is a National School of Excellence. In 2009-2010, HCHS performance on the GHSGT was as follows:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">11th Grade - GHSGT Mathematics</a>           | 97 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |
| <a href="#">11th Grade - GHSGT English Language Arts</a> | 96 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |
| <a href="#">11th Grade - GHSGT Science</a>               | 96 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |
| <a href="#">11th Grade - GHSGT Social Studies</a>        | 87 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |
| <a href="#">Georgia High School Writing Test</a>         | 95 Percent Meeting and Exceeding Standard |

The selection of the two schools offered as Choice options is based on travel distance and proximity to Northside High. Neither of these schools is considered in Needs Improvement. Perry High School and Veterans High School were not selected as schools of choice due to travel distance from Northside High. For additional information to see how Northside High compares to other schools in our system or the state, please visit the following DOE websites, <http://www.gaosa.org/> and <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/aypnclb.aspx>.

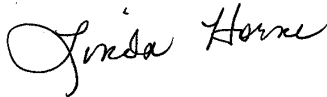
**IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND NORTHSIDE HIGH, NO ACTION IS NECESSARY.** Parents or guardians who desire to apply for a transfer **to Warner Robins High School or Houston County High** for the 2011-2012 school year must complete the enclosed School Choice Request and return it by **Friday, May 13, 2011.**

Applications may be returned:

- To Kim Ferguson in the main office at Northside High School
- By fax to 478-988-6220: Attention - Carla Thorpe
- By email: [carla.thorpe@hcbe.net](mailto:carla.thorpe@hcbe.net)
- By mail: Carla Thorpe, Parent Coordinator  
Houston County Board of Education  
PO Box 1850  
Perry, GA 31069-1850

If you have questions or need assistance in completing the necessary forms, contact Carla Thorpe, Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator at (478) 988-6200 ext. 10908, or Jennifer Birdsong, Title I Coordinator at (478) 988-6396 ext. 10392. You may also contact Greg Peavy, Principal of Northside High School at (478) 929-7858.

Sincerely,



Linda Horne  
Assistant Superintendent for School Operations

Enclosure