



FAQ: Persistently Dangerous Schools

Frequently Asked Questions about Persistently Dangerous Schools

Under NCLB, each state must implement a policy regarding options for students who attend a school defined as “persistently dangerous” according to the law’s definition. A student who attends a persistently dangerous school, or who is the victim of a violent crime on school grounds, must be allowed to transfer to another school within the school district.

What is Georgia’s definition of “persistently dangerous schools?”

Georgia’s definition of a persistently dangerous school is one in **which for three consecutive years:**

1. At least one student is found by official tribunal action (disciplinary panel) to have violated a school rule related to a violent criminal offense (including aggravated battery, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sexual battery, aggravated sodomy, armed robbery, first-degree arson, kidnapping, murder, rape, or voluntary manslaughter) either on campus or at a school-sanctioned event;
2. At least two percent of the student body (or 10 students, whichever is greater) is found by official tribunal action (disciplinary panel) to have violated school rules related to other identified criminal offenses, including non-felony drugs, felony drugs, felony weapons, or terroristic threats;
3. Any combination of 1 & 2.

Does Houston have any schools designated as “persistently dangerous?”

No, Houston County does not have any schools designated as “persistently dangerous.” Therefore, no students will be offered the option to transfer to another school under this provision of NCLB.

What about the student who becomes the victim of a violent crime at school?

How does a parent seek a transfer to another school for that student?

Parents should contact the principal of their child’s school about a transfer request. Students may transfer to any school identified on the choice list as a “receiving” school for NCLB purposes.

Can these transfers be requested at any time during the school year?

Requests to transfer from a school labeled as “persistently dangerous” must be made at the beginning of the school year. Students who are victims of a violent crime at school may transfer at any time during the school year.

For additional information about the state’s definition of “persistently dangerous schools” and the Unsafe School Choice Option go to the Georgia Department of Education’s web site (www.doe.k12.ga.us).