



BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

House Bill 251 - Public School Choice (2024 – 2025 School Year)
Parent Notification – March 1, 2024

As the parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled in the Bibb County School District, we are notifying you of House Bill 251 (HB251), a law signed by Governor Perdue in 2009 that allows parents of K-12 public school students in Georgia the opportunity to enroll their child in **designated schools** within the local school district in which they now reside.

Under this state law, parents may request to transfer their child to another public school in the district for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, “if such school has classroom space available after its assigned students have been enrolled.”

The Bibb County School District will determine “space available” in accordance with the capacity calculations approved by the United States District Court in the case of *Adams, et al. v. Board of Education*. Portable classrooms are **not** included in the calculations.

This law requires that the District provide notification of schools, which have “space available” by July 1; however, final enrollment numbers cannot be determined until current and new students living in the zone have been enrolled for the new academic year.

In addition, other transfer provisions already in place must be included in the final determination of enrollment. These include:

- Children of school-based employee transfers
- Continuation of existing transfers
- Selection processes for Magnet Programs
- Provisions for accommodating twins
- Provisions for accommodating siblings of special education students

NOTE:

If a parent request a transfer to a school that does not have the services required by the current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP), the district is not required to develop those services, as long as they are available within the local school district. To determine the availability of specific services, contact the Program for Exceptional Children at 478-765-8705.

Any high school student transferring under this law is still subject to the eligibility requirements of the Georgia High School Association. The student must verify eligibility with the District Athletic Office at 478-765-8550 to determine if a transfer will result in the loss of eligibility;



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Preliminary List of Schools NOT Accepting HB251 Transfers**

Schools with a Magnet Program

Based on their established application and selection process, **the following schools will not accept HB251 transfers**. You may contact the school for information regarding their application process.

Alexander II Magnet	Vineville Fine Arts Academy	Burdell-Hunt Magnet	Heard Elementary
Miller Middle Fine Arts Magnet		Central High Fine Arts Magnet	

Preliminary List of Schools Eligible to Accept HB251 Transfers

The Bibb County School District will determine “space available” in accordance with the capacity calculation approved by the United States District Court in the case of *Adams, et al. v. Board of Education*. Portable classrooms are not included in the calculations.

The following *preliminary* list indicates which schools **may** have space available. Availability may change depending upon student enrollment at the beginning of the year and the status of other HB 251 transfers.

Elementary Schools	
Bernd Elementary	Porter Elementary
Bruce Elementary	Skyview Elementary
Carter Elementary	Southfield Elementary
Hartley Elementary	Springdale Elementary
Heritage Elementary	Taylor Elementary
Ingram-Pye Elementary	Union Elementary
John R. Lewis Elementary	Veterans Elementary
Lane Elementary	Williams Elementary
Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary	
Middle Schools	
Appling Middle	
Ballard-Hudson Middle	Rutland Middle
Howard Middle	Weaver Middle
High Schools	
Howard High	
Northeast High	Southwest High
Rutland High	Westside High



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Transfer Application Process & Timeline

Below is the timeline for transfer applications under HB251.

Beginning March 1, 2024, HB251 transfer applications will be available at the BCSD District's web site. Please log on (www.bcsdk12.net) to complete the online application.

From March 1 – March 31, 2024, applications must be submitted via our online website no later than March 31, 2024 by 12:00 midnight. *Late submissions will not be accepted.*

In **May**, a lottery will be held to select HB251 transfers at the Bibb County Board of Education, 484 Mulberry Street Macon, GA 31201

Letters, notifying parents of the status of their HB 251 transfer request will be mailed to the address on the application no later than June 15, 2024. Please ensure that the address reported is your current mailing address to ensure proper delivery. If your transfer is approved and you fail to complete school registration within the given time period on your acceptance letter, the transfer is no longer applicable, and the student must remain at his/her zoned school.

Transfer Application Timeline

Date	Action	Location
March 1 – 31, 2024	<i>Preliminary</i> HB251 Information published. Application are available online. Parental assistance available in Suite 261 at the BCSD (478)765-8711	District Web site (www.bcsdk12.net) Release to Local Media
February 18-March 20, 2024 April 20- June 5, 2024 October 5-November 6, 2024 www.bcsdk12.net	Senate Bill 10 (transfer applications accepted)	Program for Exceptional Children 484 Mulberry Street, Suite 450 (478) 765-8705
May 15, 2024	HB251 Lottery	Central Office
No later than June 15, 2024	Transfer status letters mailed	Central Office and Schools



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Transfer Provisions

Parents/Guardians, who are interested in applying for a transfer under HB251, should be aware of the following provisions:

- Students must be enrolled and **in attendance for at least 10 school days** to be eligible to request a HB251 transfer.
- A parent/guardian may elect to send a child to another public school in the same school district, **as long as there is space available at the school after its assigned students have been enrolled. Once capacity is reached at a school, no more transfers will be accepted at that school;**
- Due to difference in capacity levels for each grade level, **siblings are not allowed to follow to the accepting school; therefore, while one sibling may get accepted into a school, their siblings may not due to space available in the particular grade level applied for.**
- If a parent/guardian elects to exercise this choice option, the parent assumes **all costs associated with transporting the child to and from the selected school;**
- The Georgia State Compulsory Attendance Law requires that every parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between their sixth and sixteenth birthday, shall enroll and send their child(ren) to a public, private, or home study school program or shall be penalized under the law (See Section 20-3-690.1). In the state of Georgia, any child missing 5 or more unexcused days from school is considered to be truant. **Any student who is approved for a HB251 Transfer and becomes truant within the school year, will be at risk of losing their HB251 status and will be required to enroll in their zoned school.**
- If a parent requests a transfer to a school that does not have the services required by the current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP), the district is not required to develop those services, as long as they are available within the district. To determine the availability of specific services, **contact the Program for Exceptional Children at 478-765-8705;**
- Any high school student, transferring under this new law, is still subject to the eligibility requirements of the Georgia High School Association; therefore, you must verify eligibility with the District Athletic Office at 478-765-8550 to determine if a transfer will result in the loss of athletic eligibility;



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- **A student, who transfers to another school under this new law, may continue to attend that school until the student completes all grades of the school. A transferring student, who completes all grades available at the receiving school, will not be automatically eligible to attend the feeder middle or high school. A new transfer application must be submitted.** (Example: if your child is attending an elementary school under a HB251 transfer, the parent/guardian **MUST** submit a new application when it is time for the student to enroll in middle school. HB251 transfers do not carry over into the feeder middle or high schools- a new application must be submitted for students entering into the 6th and 9th grade.)

Questions pertaining to HB251 should be directed to:

Takeysha Lewis, MSW, Ed.S
District Attendance and Transfer Coordinator
(478) 765-8749