

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 17, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Title I Enrollment Option

This is the first in a series of updates that will be prepared for the Board of Education on the implementation of the Title I Enrollment Option available to parents of low-performing students in the ten Title I schools identified as in need of improvement by the state of Maryland. The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) provides parents with an option to seek enrollment of their children in a designated school if their Title I school has not demonstrated two years of sustained improvement in overall student performance. The Title I Enrollment Option is available in the following elementary schools, which have been paired with designated receiving schools: Broad Acres to Stonegate, Burnt Mills to Cloverly, Gaithersburg to Candlewood, Harmony Hills to Olney, Highland to Flower Valley, Kemp Mill to Westover, Rosemont to Cold Spring, Summit Hall to Diamond, Weller Road to Lucy V. Barnsley, and Wheaton Woods to Belmont.

In April 2002, a meeting was held with administrators from the sending and receiving schools. At that meeting, principals were provided with the following:

- Background information regarding the NCLB Title I Enrollment Option
- Enrollment option implementation plan for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- Sample invitation letter to parents in sending schools
- Sample agendas for information meetings in sending schools
- Sample agendas for information meetings in receiving schools
- Recommendations for publicizing and conducting the information meetings
- Sample newsletter item
- *Answer to Questions About My School: Title I Enrollment Options* brochure
- Plan for identifying students as low-income and low-achieving

The Department of Communications translated the invitation letters to parents into seven languages and provided the sending schools with a copy for each student. Letters were sent home along with a copy of the brochure, *Answer to Questions About My School: Title I Enrollment Options*.

Sending schools scheduled parent information meetings from May 16 through May 29, 2002. Community superintendents, directors of school performance, and representatives from the Academic Support, Federal and State Programs Unit and the Office of Instruction and Program Development (OIPD) participated. Numerous teachers and staff members also attended the meetings. Translators were provided for parents.

A question and answer period followed the presentation on the specifics of the enrollment option available to parents. Parents expressed appreciation for the information that was provided during the meetings and in the brochure. Many parents had already researched NCLB and/or reviewed school assessment data on the Maryland State Department of Education Web site.

Receiving school meetings were scheduled between May 30 and June 11, 2002. Again, a consistent format was used, with community superintendents, directors of school performance, and staff from OIPD, Academic Support, Federal and State Programs Unit, and schools in attendance. The agenda for these meetings included a welcome by the principal, comments from the community superintendent or director of school performance, a presentation on the enrollment option plan, and a question and answer period. Some schools requested another meeting during the summer in order to be updated on the status of the enrollment option program in their school.

Principals in sending schools expressed confidence that their schools will demonstrate consistent and steady gains in student performance as the result of classroom improvements already being implemented. Principals of the receiving schools welcomed potential students to their schools.

The attached Inquiries/Applications Title I Enrollment Option, June 10, 2002, delineates the number of parents interested in enrollment options by school and current grade level. The June 10, 2002, data are significant since June 10 was the cut off date for applications.

I will continue to provide you with frequent updates on the status of the Title I Enrollment Option.

JDW:bsr

Attachment

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Mrs. Richardson

**Inquires/Applications
Title I Enrollment Option
June 10, 2002**

School	Entering K	Current K	Current 1	Current 2	Current 3	Current 4	Total Application	Private to Public School Student
Broad Acres (Stonegate)							0	0
Burnt Mills (Cloverly)	4	2	2	1	1	3	13	1
Gaithersburg ES (Candlewood)	3	2	1	1	1		8	2
Harmony Hills (Olney)					2	1	3	0
Highland (Flower Valley)		2		2	1		5	0
Kemp Mill (Westover)	1	5	2	1	1		10	0
Rosemont (Cold Spring)	5	8	8	4	4	4	33	0
Summit Hall (Diamond)	1	2	1	2			6	0
Weller Road (Barnsley)		1	2	1	8	3	15	0
Wheaton Woods (Belmont)	2	5	5	7	4	2	25	1
Total	16	27	21	19	22	13	118	1* note below

* 4 students are transfer students
2 @ Lakewood
2 @ Brown Station

* 1 student is transfer student to Viers Mill

(Receiving Schools in Parenthesis)