



St. Martin Parish School Board

P.O. Box 859 St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582

Telephone 337-394-6261
337-332-4501
337-232-2669
Fax 337-394-6387

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May 21, 2010

To the family of students at St. Martinville Jr. High

Dear Family:

Federal law requires school districts to offer families in schools that have been identified as in need of improvement the chance to transfer their children to other public schools in the same district. Your child's school has been identified as a school in need of improvement and you are allowed to choose to enroll him or her in another school. To help you understand how the choice program works, here are some answers to questions you may have:

Why was St. Martinville Jr. High School identified as a "school in need of improvement" and how does it compare to other schools in St. Martin Parish and in the rest of Louisiana?

St. Martinville Jr. High School was identified as a school in need of improvement because the school failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress, as outlined by the No Child Left Behind Act, for subgroup performance in English/language arts only. St. Martinville Jr. High is academically acceptable according to the Louisiana Department of Education. Because the school failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2007-2008, the district must offer choice for two years; therefore, this transfer option will be available for the 2008 – 2010 academic years. St. Martinville Jr. High's Growth Performance Score for 2008-2009 is 73.9.

What is St. Martinville Jr. High School doing to address the problem of low achievement in a subgroup, and what is the school system and the State doing to help them address the problem?

The administration will evaluate all areas of instruction at St. Martinville Jr. High School. This evaluation will include interviews and surveys of students, teachers, and parents to determine what areas need to be improved. The information obtained will be used to prepare a School Improvement Plan. These plans require classroom instruction and teacher training to focus on improving the areas in which students at St. Martinville Jr. High School are having difficulty. Also, a performance monitor is assigned to the school to assist with school improvement.

How can I become involved in addressing the problems that caused St. Martinville Jr. High School to be identified as a school in need of improvement?

Families are encouraged to arrange a private conference with their child's teachers to discuss ways to improve academic performance. Families are also invited to participate as members of the School Improvement Team at St. Martinville Jr. High School. The School Improvement Team is a group made up of the principal, teachers and parents that works to improve the education and overall learning experience for all students at St. Martinville Jr. High School. Even if a family member does not serve as a member of the School Improvement Team, he or she may attend meetings of the team to discuss possible changes in any area of instruction to improve St. Martinville Jr. High School.



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Do I have to transfer my child to another school?

No. We are providing families with this opportunity as an option. The decision is entirely up to you, so you should base your decision on what you think is best for your child. If you choose to have your child remain at his or her current school, all you have to do is make sure he or she reports to St.Martinville Jr. High on the first day of this school year.

To which schools may my child transfer?

Not all of the schools in the district are approved to accept transfer students under the parish’s School Choice Plan. Your child may be eligible to transfer to other schools in the parish under the School Choice Plan.

Your child may also choose to attend one of the following two schools:

Catahoula Elementary 1016-A Catahoula Sch Hwy St. Martinville, LA 70582 08-09 Growth SPS: 106.2	Parks Middle School 1010-A St. Louis Dr. St. Martinville, LA 70582 08-09 Growth SPS: 87.2
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If you choose to have your child attend one of these two schools, please rank the school which you would most prefer as number 1 and the school which you would least prefer as number 2 on the enclosed choice form.

Is my child guaranteed a place in an accepting school?

It is possible that your child may not be granted enrollment in your first choice. Students will be granted enrollment in the schools above based upon enrollment limits, income levels, and individual achievement scores.

How will my child get to a receiving school?

If your transfer application is approved, your child will have **free transportation** to the receiving school for as long as your current school does not make Adequate Yearly Progress on the statewide assessment program standard. In the future, we may not be able to provide free transportation to the receiving school if your current school improves and meets state standards.

What is the deadline for applying?

If you decide you want to send your child to one of the receiving schools, the enclosed *Choice Request Form* must be received (mailed, hand delivered, or faxed) in the St. Martin Parish Director of Curriculum’s Office, 305 Washington St., St. Martinville, LA 70582 no later than June 4, 2010 (14 calendar days from May 21 2010), by 4:30 P.M.

When will you tell me if my transfer application is approved?

We will send official notification to you and the sending and receiving schools no later than June 14, 2010, regarding the status of your transfer application. If you choose to enroll your child at the receiving school, he/she must remain at that school the entire school year. The district will enroll the students at the receiving school. After the application is approved and parents are notified, parents have fourteen calendar days from June 14, 2010 to cancel their application. If the application is not cancelled by June 28, 2010, the student will be enrolled and assigned to the receiving school and must remain at the receiving school the entire 2010-2011 school year.

NOTE: Should St. Martinville Jr. High make annual yearly progress for the 2009-2010 school year, school choice will be discontinued. Students currently enrolled at the receiving schools will be allowed to remain, however parents will have to provide transportation to and from the school.

Questions?

You may visit our website at <http://saintmartinschools.org/site.php> or contact the following individuals:

St. Martin Parish School System School Choice 305 Washington St. St. Martinville, LA 70582	Contact: Gail Dalcourt (394-6261) OR Ray Latiolais (332-2105) Fax: 394-6387
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Sincerely,

Richard Lavergne
Superintendent

