



ABBEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
400 GREENVILLE STREET
ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29620
Phone (864) 366-5427 FAX (864) 366-8531

August 23, 2011

Dear Parent:

Abbeville County School District (ACSD) is committed to providing a quality education for every child attending our schools. ACSD aims to ensure that parents have access to all available resources that support and strengthen the academic achievement of their children. According to the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), an opportunity must be provided to your child to attend another school within the school district or possibly a neighboring district if your child is enrolled in a Title I school identified as a school "in need of improvement." A school is identified as in need of improvement if the school has not met the state's definition of Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years. Westwood Elementary School has not made AYP for two consecutive years and therefore has been identified for school improvement and must offer Public School Choice, the opportunity for you to transfer your child to another school.

If requested, the school district will provide transportation to the school of choice. However, funds for choice transportation are limited. Should the request for choice transportation exceed the amount of funds made available by federal law, student transfers based on choice will only be granted for a limited number of students within the transportation cost allowance, with priority being given to those students with the greatest instructional need.

Attached to this letter you will find a list of the schools to which your child may transfer. Information about the academic achievement of these schools is also provided. Please study the academic achievement of these schools before making any decision to request a transfer.

If you would like to transfer your child to one of the designated schools, you may request a School Choice Transfer Form by contacting Sherwin L. Johnson, Director of Federal Programs, Student Services, and Transportation, 400 Greenville Street, Abbeville, SC 29620. The window for requesting a transfer closes on Friday, September 2, 2011. You will receive written notification that your request has been received. You will also receive written notification by Monday, September 12, 2011 of the school to which your child is being transferred.

You will also find all of the information about School Choice on the Abbeville County School District website at www.acsd.k12.sc.us. If you have any questions regarding School Choice procedures, you may contact Sherwin L. Johnson at 366-5428, Extension 1032, or sjohnson@acsd.k12.sc.us. I will be more than happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Sherwin L. Johnson
Director of Federal Programs, Student Services, and Transportation

Abbeville County School District

Public School Choice Options

According to the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), an opportunity must be provided to your child to attend another school within the school district or possibly a neighboring district if your child is enrolled in a Title I school identified as a school “in need of improvement.” A school is identified as in need of improvement if the school has not met the state’s definition of Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years.

Westwood Elementary School has not made AYP for two consecutive years and therefore has been newly identified for school improvement and must offer Public School Choice, the opportunity for you to transfer your child to another school. Westwood Elementary School has made significant academic progress as demonstrated by its achievement in 2011 of the Palmetto Silver Award for General Achievement awarded by the South Carolina Department of Education. However, Westwood Elementary did not meet one of the state achievement targets for one sub-group of the population. According to NCLB, if a school misses even one of its targets for two consecutive years, the school is identified as in need of improvement and must offer choice.

The three schools within Abbeville County School District that have the same grade levels as Westwood Elementary and that are not under school improvement to which your child may transfer are Cherokee Trail Elementary, Diamond Hill Elementary, and John C. Calhoun Elementary. The following charts summarize the 2011 PASS Test results for grades 3, 4, and 5 for all four schools.

Writing Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3						
4						
5	77.7	77.2	91.1	71.0	91.3	70.2

ELA Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3	80.0	88.3	96.0	78.4	97.2	85.5
4	78.0	81.0	75.0	83.7	88.0	81.3
5	78.3	82.9	91.1	64.5	87.0	83.1

Math Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3	70.4	86.6	84.0	91.9	91.7	84.7
4	79.4	84.4	85.7	89.8	76.0	83.5
5	75.3	82.1	91.1	71.0	78.3	81.5

Science Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3	60.8	73.6	70.8	85.0	88.2	67.2
4	70.9	80.7	82.1	89.8	88.0	75.5
5	64.9	68.0	82.8	80.0	72.7	58.2

Social Studies Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3	76.6	89.5	100.0	76.5	100.0	85.5
4	77.1	82.2	78.6	83.7	92.0	81.3
5	70.4	73.7	81.5	62.5	91.7	69.8

Source: <http://ed.sc.gov/topics/assessment/scores/pass/2011/>

When you compare the 2011 PASS scores for the four schools listed above in the charts with the State results, the following results are found:

- At Westwood Elementary School, students scored above the State level in ten out of thirteen areas (subjects and grades) and below the State level in three areas (5th grade writing, science, and social studies).
- At Cherokee Trail Elementary, students scored above the State level in twelve out of thirteen areas (subjects and grades) and below the State level in one area (4th grade English language arts).
- At Diamond Hill Elementary, students scored above the State level in seven out of thirteen areas (subjects and grades) and below the State level in six areas (3rd grade English language arts and social studies and 5th grade writing, English language arts, mathematics, and social studies).
- At John C. Calhoun Elementary, students scored above the State level in twelve out of thirteen areas (subjects and grades) and below the State level in one area (4th grade mathematics).

Overall, the PASS Results for Westwood Elementary School are slightly less or relatively comparable to the other elementary schools. As a result, Cherokee Trail Elementary, Diamond Hill Elementary, and John C. Calhoun Elementary received a Palmetto Gold Award for General Achievement and Westwood Elementary received a Palmetto Silver Award for General Achievement. Westwood Elementary School was “newly identified” for school improvement because it failed to meet the state target for one sub-group for two consecutive years.

Over the next three months, the faculty and staff of Westwood Elementary School will be updating their School Improvement Plan to address these deficiencies in meeting the state targets. If you would like to be involved in the planning process, please contact Mr. David Nixon, Principal of Westwood Elementary School, at 864-366-9604.