

B.E. USHER-COLLIER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

631 Harwell Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30318
404-802-5700

November 18, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) was signed into law to improve educational opportunities for all children. This legislation supports the school district's efforts to provide a strong standards-based educational program for students, along with accountability for student achievement. The purpose of this letter is to share important parent information related to the law and your option for public school choice. The NCLB legislation requires all schools to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the academic areas of reading, mathematics, and science. The state has established annual student achievement targets or goals in order to measure a school's progress. A school that does not make AYP in the priority subject areas for two or more years is designated as a school in need of improvement under the NCLB legislation.

B.E.Usher-Collier Heights Elementary School has been identified as a Needs Improvement Year 1 school because we did not meet the AYP criteria for Reading/English Language Arts during the school year 2010-2011. The state required that our school's AYP score in 2010-2011 be 80% Proficient/Advanced. Our school's AYP score in Reading/English Language Arts was 73% Proficient/Advanced. Although our overall student pass rate was 73% we did not make the Proficient/Advanced measurement.

Your child's options for the 2011-2012 school year are to:

1. Remain at *B.E. Usher-Collier Heights Elementary School*; or
2. Transfer to a designated school of choice.

The school district will devote additional time and resources to improve student achievement at *B. E. Usher-Collier Heights Elementary School*. We want you to understand the proactive steps we are taking to improve student performance at our school. We are hiring additional resources, and continuing our Afterschool Program in the fall to focus on accountability, high expectations, meeting standards, and a variety of assessments. The focus of assessments will be in the areas of Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics. We encourage you to allow your child to remain enrolled at *B. E. Usher-Collier Heights Elementary School* as we work collaboratively to achieve and meet AYP this year.

Parents of students attending a school that has not met AYP for two or more consecutive years have the opportunity to request a transfer to another school within the district that is not in need of improvement. If you choose the transfer option, the school district will provide transportation until the current school is no longer designated as an NI school. Federal law requires us to offer all students enrolled in the school the opportunity to transfer, and in honoring these requests, give priority to the lowest-achieving students from low-income families as determined by the school district.

In order for our students to be successful, we must develop a partnership with you and work as a team. As parents, there are some things that you can do to strengthen the academic achievement of your child.

- Assist us by becoming more involved in addressing the school's academic deficiencies by providing input on the school improvement plan.
- Hold high expectations for your child.
- Support the school in its efforts to maintain proper discipline.
- Make sure that your child attends school daily, arrives on time and has appropriate supplies.
- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher.
- Attend parent meetings.
- Support your child in doing homework.

The following elementary schools also made AYP and are eligible to receive transfers pursuant to the criteria set by No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 – Beecher Hills, Benteen, Bethune, Boyd, Brandon, Burgess Peterson, Capitol View, Cascade, Centennial Place, Cleveland, Continental Colony, Fickett, Hope-Hill, Humphries, Jackson, Lin, Morningside, Parkside, Rivers, Smith, Springdale Park, Toomer, Venetian Hills, West Manor, and Whitefoord. Based upon geographic location, current school capacity, transportation patterns, and continuity of instructional programs, the district has provided the following choice schools for the 2011-2012 school year.

The choice schools are:

Choice Elementary Schools	Students Meeting/Exceeding Reading/Lang Arts Standard	Students Meeting/Exceeding Mathematics Standard
CASCADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	87.3%	79.9%
CONTINENTAL COLONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	83.2%	73.4%

The 2010-2011 AYP Report that determined the 2011-2012 AYP status for each school (including all choice schools) may be accessed via the web at <http://www.gadoe.org/ayp2011>.

As a result of the school's academic status, you are eligible to transfer your child to another school in the district that has not been designated as Needs Improvement. This transfer option is known as Public School Choice. The Atlanta Public Schools must provide or pay for transportation for students to transfer to another school, although if there are not enough funds to transport all students who request transportation, we will give priority to the lowest achieving low-income students who request transportation.

If you want your child to remain at B.E.Usher-Collier Heights Elementary School, no action is necessary. However, parents/guardians who wish to apply for a transfer for the 2011-2012 school year may do so and have several ways to communicate their choice of school. Please select the option from those listed below that is most convenient to you.

You can complete the NCLB PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION by visiting the Atlanta Public Schools Department of Student Relations located at 130 Trinity Avenue – 2nd Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The deadline for completing the application is December 14, 2011.

In the alternative, you may complete the enclosed NCLB PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION and submit by US Mail no later than/postmarked by December 14, 2011 to Atlanta Public Schools Department of Student Relations by U.S. mail at 130 Trinity Avenue – 2nd Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

You may also complete the enclosed NCLB PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION and drop it off at the Atlanta Public Schools Department of Student Relations located at 130 Trinity Avenue – 2nd Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303 no later than December 14, 2011.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: Parents and guardians must provide photo identification and current proof of residence in the form of a Georgia Power bill current within 30 days and current mortgage statement/lease with the NCLB PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION.

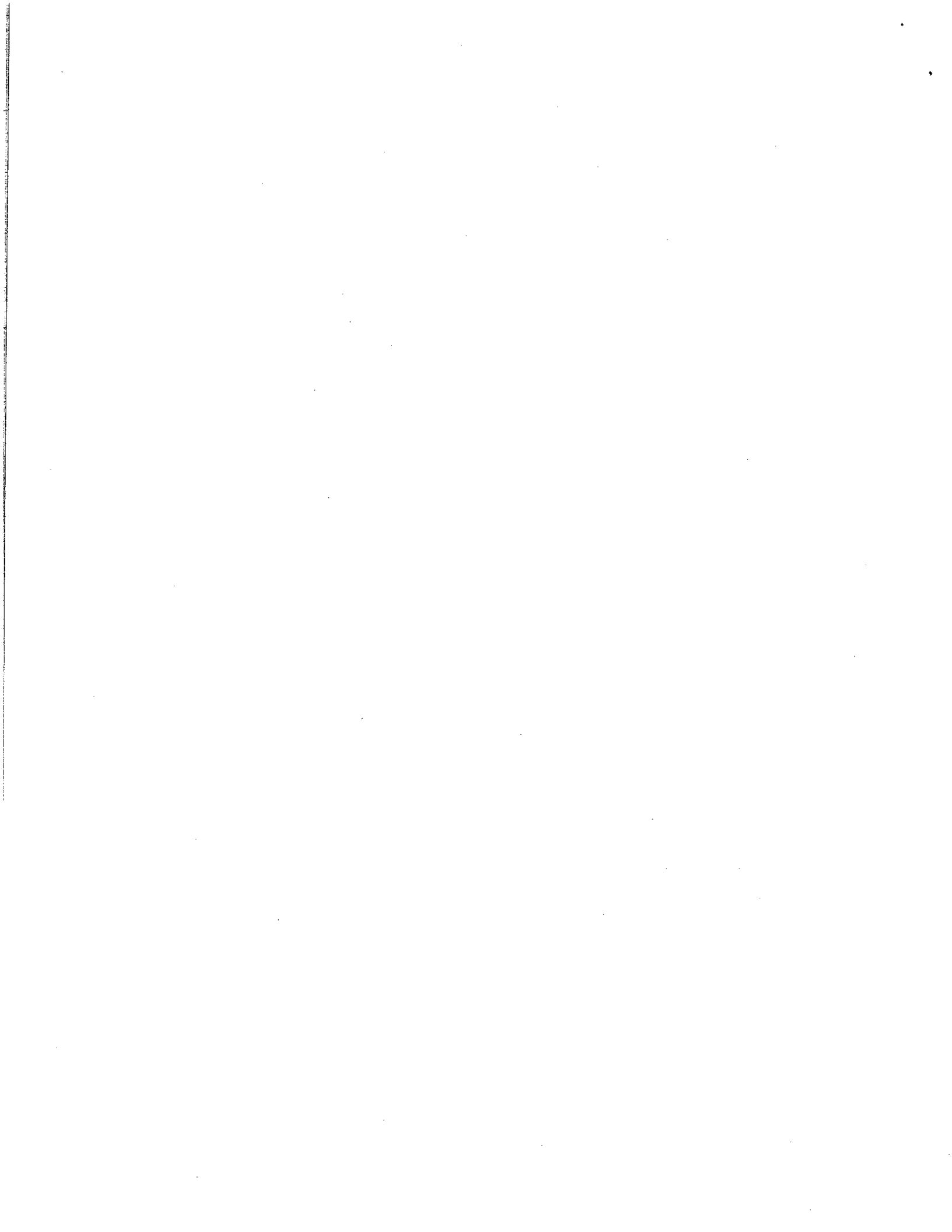
If you request a transfer, your child should remain enrolled in our school until you receive official notice from the school district regarding your transfer request. The district will respond to your request with a written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability.

Elementary and middle school students will be provided transportation on an APS school bus. For those elementary and middle school students riding the bus, school bus stops will be developed based upon your current address and a bus schedule will be available at your transfer school. High school students who need transportation will receive MARTA Breeze Cards. Each transfer school will designate a person to provide your child with a MARTA Breeze Card on a weekly basis.

At B.E.Usher-Collier Heights Elementary School we are committed to continually seeking to improve instruction for our students. We hope that as parents, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please give me a call (404) 802-5700 or you may contact the Department of Student Relations at (404) 802-2233 if you need assistance in completing the necessary forms or have any questions about the Public School Choice process.

Sincerely,

Gregory Parks
Principal



USHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NCLB PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION SY2011-2012
ROUND 2

To apply for the NCLB School Choice Transfer: Complete the application, and mail or hand deliver to the Department of Student Relations at 130 Trinity Avenue -2nd Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. **The application must be postmarked or hand delivered no later than December 14, 2011 for currently enrolled students. Students who enroll at an eligible school after the application period have 20 days from the date of enrollment to request school choice.**

The following documents are required to be submitted with your application:

1. Parent photo identification.
2. Proof of residence (Georgia Power bill current within 30 days and current mortgage statement/lease) showing the residential address.
3. If you are new to the district or from a private school, you must also submit a current report card, withdrawal form and official documentation from your child's prior school verifying low income status (free/reduced lunch) if applicable.

Please print legibly.

Student Name: _____ 2011-2012 Grade: _____

Gender: M F D/Birth: _____ Last school attended: _____

Parent or Legal Guardian: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please check all that apply to your child.

ESOL IEP 504

Did you apply for a general administrative transfer?

Yes or No

The district has provided as choice schools, the following elementary schools which are eligible to receive NCLB transfers. Please indicate your first (1st) and second (2nd) choice from the available NCLB School Choice transfer schools:

_____ CONTINENTAL COLONY ES

_____ CASCADE ES

I will need transportation for my child

I will provide my child's transportation

I certify that the information provided on this application is true and correct.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

For School System Use Only:

GTID number : _____

SP ED No or Yes Program: _____

Attendance Zone Residency Verified _____

Transportation requested: Yes or No

NCLB Transfer: Approved: _____

Denied: _____

Date Parent Notified: _____

Date Sending School Notified : _____

Date Receiving School Notified : _____

Date Transportation Notified: _____

NCLB Choice Transfer Choice Guidelines

- Priority will be given to low achieving children from low income families.
- You may only apply for the school choices listed for your zoned school as stated on your letter.
- You will be notified of the outcome of your request for transfer in writing with your child's specific school assignment and transportation availability.
- A student with disabilities that applies for an NCLB school choice transfer will need to have his or her individualized educational program (IEP) or Section 504 plan evaluated prior to enrollment to determine whether those services required under the IEP or 504 plan are available at the school. The availability of exceptional student education services offered may be a limiting factor at some sites.
- Applicants to a chosen school must provide current proof of residence in order to verify the school selected is designated as a receiving school for their area.
- If a student receives NCLB school choice transfer and then moves out of the targeted attendance area for that school during the school year, he or she may remain at that school until the completion of the highest grade served at that school site. **Transportation will then be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.**
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the receiving school if there is a change of address.
- **The district is not obligated to provide transportation for the student after the end of the school year if the student's home school is no longer identified as being in need of improvement (makes AYP for two consecutive years).**
- **If the student's home school makes Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years, the NCLB school choice transfer option will not be available.**
- If you choose to transfer your child back to their home school or to another school in or out of the district, the child will not be allowed to return to that choice school during that school year. The student may reapply for a transfer the next year, if the home school continues to be a school "in improvement". However, there is no guarantee that the current choice school will be their choice option.
- **Elementary and middle school students will be provided transportation on an APS school bus. For those elementary and middle school students riding the bus, school bus stops will be developed based upon your current address and a bus schedule will be available at your transfer school.**
- **High school students who need transportation will receive MARTA passes. Each transfer school will designate a person to provide your child with a MARTA pass on a weekly basis.**
- Please note that the average ride time for students receiving a NCLB School Choice transfer is 1.5 hours. Pick up/drop off times will be earlier/later than normal bus routes to allow your student to arrive on time. This means that your child's bus pick up time may be as early as 6:30am and the drop off time may be as late as 6:00pm. Program location and traffic congestion severely impact the speed a bus can travel therefore, the longer the route, the longer the transit time.