

East Carroll Offers School Choice

Number of students eligible for School Choice	73
Number of eligible students participating in School Choice	0
List of schools available for transfer:	Northside Elementary Southside Elementary
List of schools offering School Choice:	Monticello High School (K-12)

Information about receiving schools:

Northside Elementary and Southside Elementary offer the state-approved Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum for grades PreK - 5. Both schools are approved as Reading First schools and participate in the statewide Louisiana Literacy Initiative which ensures literacy of all students at the elementary level. Highly-qualified teachers and paraprofessionals staff all classrooms at both schools, with the exception of one kindergarten teacher. PLATO and MTS computer labs are housed at both schools and are staffed by highly-qualified personnel. The computer labs provide daily individualized computer-assisted instruction, enrichment, and/or remediation to all students. After-school tutoring is available annually for all students at both elementary schools. Parental involvement activities are held monthly through Family Learning Nights held in each of the four content areas. Parents also serve on the School Improvement Team and the Parent-Teacher organizations at each school. Community and parent volunteers serve as reading tutors at each school.

Procedures and Timelines:

Three weeks prior to the opening of school, parents will be notified that their children have an opportunity to transfer to a higher performing school. After receiving the letter of notification, parents must return the letter to the school board office or school within two weeks. The school board will then notify the parents of their assigned school and bus within one week prior to the opening of school.

The process will be that all students at the school will be allowed the option of school choice as long as funds are available. Once funds have been exhausted, then the district will prioritize students to receive choice. The district will use free/reduced student lunch data (low income) and state assessment scores to determine lowest achieving students. Final grades in those subjects will be used to break ties.

Transportation:

The East Carroll Parish School Board will provide bus transportation to the receiving schools for students participating in the School Choice option.

Information regarding the 20% NCLB obligation:

Twenty percent (20%) of the Title I allocation will be set aside for schools in School Improvement 2 and 3, of which five percent (5%) will be used for the transportation of students to the receiving schools. However, the entire 5% may not be used because the transportation expense will be shared by the General Funds.

LEA and School Contact Information:

LEA contact:	Cyd Harris, Federal Programs Supervisor - (318) 559-2224 EXT 218
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Northside Elementary:	James Burrell, Principal - (318) 559-2887
Southside Elementary:	Theola Chatman, Principal - (318) 559-0325
Lake Providence Senior High School:	Helen I. P. Smith, Principal - (318) 559-1984
Monticello High School:	Flora Watson, Principal - (318) 552 - 6366

School Choice Form (2009 – 2010)

(One Student per Form)

Student Name: _____ Student Number: _____

 Last First MI

Parent/Guardian _____

 Last First MI

Street Address _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Grade Level for 2009-2010 (Circle One): Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12

During the 2009-2010 school year, I want my child to be enrolled in

(Name of School)

Please check one: _____ I want my child to attend Monticello High School.

_____ I want to apply for my child to attend the school indicated below:

_____ Northside Elementary (PreK – 5)

_____ Southside Elementary (PreK – 5)

_____ Lake Providence Senior High (9-12)

I understand that, under the School Choice Program, the commitment I have made for my child is for an entire school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form by mail or in person to the Federal Programs Office, East Carroll School Board, 514 Third Street, Lake Providence, LA 71254 no later than **4:00 p.m. on August 13, 2009**, to the attention of Helen Millikin-Hilliard, Federal Programs Director.

July 20, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that academically unacceptable schools be Identified before the beginning of each school year. Monticello High School has been identified as School Improvement I because the school failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the subgroup component for two consecutive years.

The Louisiana school accountability system calls for continuous improvement in student achievement, attendance, and graduation rates. Schools receive numerical scores based on their students' test scores on the LEAP, iLEAP, and GEE, as well as on their attendance and graduation rates. Schools receive positive growth labels when they improve. Those that do not improve receive targeted assistance.

We are addressing the academic needs of your child's school in an effort to improve the quality of instruction that your child receives. This service will continue during the fall along with the following:

Highly Qualified Staff (100% by 2010)

Social Worker

JBHM English, Math, and School Improvement Consultants

PLATO Computer Lab

School-wide Positive Behavior Support Program

School Choice

Supplemental Educational Services

School Nurse

District Assistance Team

Low student/teacher ratio

Our teachers will be engaged in many professional development activities that will focus on research-based instructional strategies, critical thinking skills, and the Comprehensive Curriculum. Quarterly assessments will be given to prepare our students for state-mandated testing. These initiatives, as well as additional support from district supervisors and the Regional Educational Service Center, will improve the quality of education at Monticello.

Although we addressing the academic needs of your child at Monticello, you do have the choice to have your child/children remain at Monticello or apply to attend a designated higher performing school this fall. School Choice is only available to students in grades K-5 and 9-12. Students in grades 6-8 will receive Supplemental Educational Services at Monticello.

School Choice federal law requires that priority be given to the lowest achieving children from low-income families. School Choice will be granted to these children first, and then to other children requesting School Choice through a lottery. If your child transfers to another school under this program, he or she may remain in the new school until he or she completes the highest grade offered in the new school. Transportation will be provided free of charge as long as Monticello High School remains identified as in need of improvement. The school you may select to send your child is listed on the attached application.

If you wish for your child to transfer, please complete the attached application and return it by mail or in person, no later than 4:00 p.m., August 3, 2009, to the East Carroll Parish School Board Office, 514 Third Street, Lake Providence, LA 71254. If not returned by this date, your child will not be considered for a transfer. You will be contacted regarding your request to transfer your child no later than August 11, 2009.

As parents, please get involved in the school improvement process at your child's school. We encourage you to participate in needs assessments, the writing of School Improvement Plans, the development of parental involvement policies, the selection of Supplemental Educational Services, and the development of school/parent compacts. We also encourage you to serve on the School Improvement Team which guides the school improvement process, as well as on the Parental Advisory Council which promotes increased parental involvement in all schools in East Carroll Parish. Additionally, we ask you to serve as volunteers at school and to attend Family Learning Night, PTO meetings, and district Title-I meetings. These are just a few of the numerous ways parents can impact the academic success of their child or children.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this request. If you have any questions, please call 318-559-2224 or 318-552-6366.

Sincerely,

Flora H. Watson, Principal
Monticello High School
1046 Highway 577
Lake Providence LA 71254