



ABBEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

August 2, 2012

Dear Parents,

Based on the Federal ESEA Accountability System and the outcomes of Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) scores and other academic achievement and growth indicators, **Westwood Elementary School has been identified as a Grade "A" school because its performance substantially exceeds the state's expectations.** Westwood Elementary, however, has also been identified as a **Focus School** because it has not met the state's overall performance expectations for closing the growth gap for students with disabilities for the past two years.

Westwood Elementary School and Abbeville County School District are committed to ensuring that all children achieve proficiency, but because Westwood Elementary School currently receives federal Title I funds, you have the option to transfer your student to another school in our district that is not identified with the **Priority or Focus** status.

If you so choose, Abbeville County School District will provide your student bus transportation from Westwood Elementary School to one of the schools below. Please refer to the chart provided to see the most recent data regarding how Westwood Elementary School compares with choice schools.

<u>Choice School</u>	<u>% of Students Met and in ELA in 2011-2012</u>	<u>% of Students Met and in Math in 2011-2012</u>	<u>% of Students Met and in Science in 2011-2012</u>	<u>Attendance Rate in 2010-2011 (Target 93%)</u>
Westwood Elementary	85.4%	87.7%	83.5%	95.7%
Cherokee Trail Elementary	83.2%	84.6%	81.6%	95.5%
Diamond Hill Elementary	82.4%	80.7%	82.9%	95.6%
John C. Calhoun Elementary	84.9%	89.0%	87.7%	95.0%

If you choose to transfer your child, please be aware of the following:

- The district will provide or pay for transportation to and from your child's Choice School as long as Westwood Elementary School is a Focus School identified for improvement. If Westwood Elementary School meets achievement goals for two straight years, it will no longer be a high priority school.
- Your child will be allowed to remain at the new school until he/she completes the highest grade.
- If funds are not available for all students to be transported, priority for transportation will be given to lowest achieving students from low-income families.
- If requests for a Choice School exceed that school's capacity, priority for the parent's first choice will be given to lowest achieving students from low-income families. (Note: School districts cannot refuse choice based on capacity. A school district can attempt to alleviate crowding by offering two or more choices.)

The other option of which you should be aware is that if you choose to keep your student at Westwood Elementary School, and your student is not yet proficient on the state's assessment (PASS), then she/he may be eligible for free tutoring in the 2012-2013 school year.

Before you decide to transfer your student, please consider the following efforts that we are making to improve the academic success of our students:

- Availability of Title I-funded Supplemental Education Services (SES).
- Class-size reduction for lower achieving students in grades 3 - 5.
- A part-time curriculum and instructional leader for teachers in grades 3 - 5.
- Extensive data review to determine what our students do well and need to do better so that we can appropriately focus instruction.
- Additional group support for students during and after the regular school day.

Abbeville County School District also provides the following in support of improved student achievement:

- Professional development for teachers to expand their knowledge of the Core Curriculum and related instructional strategies.
- Teacher training in data analysis to help them tailor classroom instruction to be more responsive to students' academic needs.
- Access to technology that enhances student learning.

Our school is working hard with the state and district to increase student achievement in math and reading. We encourage you to get involved in our efforts to address our academic challenges! Parents assist by working with their students on schoolwork, attending parent conferences, reading newsletters and making sure their children attend school daily. Also, we invite you to participate in the following opportunities that will be publicized in newsletters:

- MAP Night.
- Bridge Night for 3rd grade students.
- PTO meetings.
- Parent Volunteers.
- Parent University.
- Discussions with your child's teacher about other ways you can help in the classroom and at home.

However, should you choose to transfer your student to one of the above named schools, you must complete the attached form. The deadline for letting us know that you want to transfer your student is **Thursday, August 16, 2012**. The *Office of Federal Programs and Student Services* of the district will notify you by *mail* to provide transportation information and the date your child may start attending the Choice School. We want you to make an informed decision about your Public School Choice option. You can find additional information about our schools/district at www.acsd.k12.sc.us. Please contact Sherwin L. Johnson at 864-366-5428, Extension 1031 or 1032 if you have questions or would like to pursue the Public School Choice option for your student.

Sincerely,



Sherwin L. Johnson

Director of Federal Programs, Student Services and Transportation