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April 27, 2020

Rockdale County Public Schools
Office of Learning Support
1127 West Avenue
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-860-4231

RE: Georgia Special Needs Scholarship

Dear Parents:

As the parent of a student who receives special education in the Rockdale County Public School System, we want you know about your options to exercise public and private school choice. This information is also posted on our system website.

(<https://www.rockdaleschools.org/learningsupport>) Under the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship, parents of students who receive special education may choose to transfer their child to another public school or private school in Georgia. If the student meets the eligibility criteria outlined on the Georgia Department of Education website (<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx>) the following options are available:

Public School Choice Options

Transfers to another public school within their school system:

A parent may request a transfer to another public school within their school system if both of the following conditions are met:

- 1) There is capacity at the school Capacity is based on established health and safety provisions and class-size by grade and subject.
- 2) A program is available at the desired school, which aligns with the student's IEP.

If this option is chosen and approved, the parent will be responsible for transportation to and from the school. **Scholarship applications should be submitted to the Director of Learning Support no later than Monday, June 15, 2020 at 4:00 pm.** Parents will receive notification, by letter, of the district's decision regarding your request for the 2020-21 school year by Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Transfers to another public school outside of their school system:

Parents may request a transfer to a school in another school system if there is capacity at the school and a program available which is aligned with the student's IEP. School systems considering a transfer request into its system may deny a request, or it can charge a parent/guardian for the costs of educating a student during the first school year of the transfer.

Transfers to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind:

The parent may also request a transfer to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a state school will depend on whether that setting is appropriate for the student's needs. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a state school.

***Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the approved school with any of the approved public school choice options.**

Private School Choice Option

If you are interested in transferring your child to a private school in Georgia, you may visit the Georgia Department of Education's website: <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx> . **There is no formal application process for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program.** Parent/guardian will determine a student's potential scholarship award using the scholarship calculator for the 2020-2021 school year, which will be available on the Georgia Department of Education website.

You may also contact the Director of Learning Support, Judd Hinton at 770-860-4231 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Judd Hinton
Director of Learning Support