



## Natchitoches Parish School Board

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**August 22, 2011**

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

Federal law requires school districts to offer families in schools that have been identified as in need of improvement the chance to transfer their children to other public schools in the same district. Your child's school Frankie Ray Jackson Technical Center (FRJTC) has been identified as a school in need of improvement and you are allowed to choose to enroll him or her in another school. To help you understand how the choice program works, here are some answers to questions you may have.

### **Why was *FRJTC* identified as a "school in need of improvement" and how does it compare to other schools in Natchitoches Parish and in the rest of Louisiana?**

*FRJTC* was identified as an Academically Unacceptable School (AUS) school. The school did not meet the State's bar of 65 School Performance Score (SPS). *FRJTC* School Performance score is 16.1. The average School Performance score for Natchitoches Parish is 81.7. The average State Performance Score is 91.8.

### **What is *FRJTC* doing to address the problem of low achievement, and what are the school system and the Louisiana State Department of Education doing to help them address the problem?**

The school system administration will evaluate all areas of instruction at *FRJTC*. This evaluation will include observations, interviews and surveys of students, teachers, and parents to determine what areas need to be improved. The information obtained will be used to prepare a School Improvement Plan. These plans require classroom instruction and teacher training to focus on improving the areas in which students at *FRJTC* are having difficulty. *FRJTC* School will analyze test scores and other data to target all areas of academic need. The school will implement literacy strategies, tutorial programs and innovative math strategies. Consultants will work along with the administration and staff to identify the most effective instructional practices for the diverse student population that attends *FRJTC*. The State Department of Education will be sending assistance in the form of additional funding and technical assistance through the Regional Service Centers. The district will provide a lower pupil/teacher ratio and work with the school weekly in monitoring its success.

Additional assistance includes:

- Staffing with highly qualified teachers;
- The target student/teacher ratio will be 20 students per teacher;
- Additional support staff will include a curriculum assistant, instructional coaches, behavioral strategist, and full time In-School Isolation Program;
- Supplemental Services or tutoring

### **How can I become involved in addressing the problems that caused *FRJTC* School to be identified as a school in need of improvement?**

Families are encouraged to arrange a private conference with their child's teachers to discuss ways to improve academic performance. Families are also invited to participate as members of the School Improvement Team at *FRJTC*. The School Improvement Team is a group made up of the principal, teachers and parents that works to improve the education and overall learning experience for all students at *FRJTC*. Even if a family member does not serve as a member of the School Improvement Team, he or she may attend meetings of the team to discuss possible changes in any area of instruction to improve *FRJTC* School.

**Do I have to transfer my child to another school?**

No. We are providing families with this opportunity as an option. The decision is entirely up to you, so you should base your decision on what you think is best for your child. If you choose to have your child remain at *FRJTC* School as registered, all you have to do is make sure he or she attends the school on the first day of class. If you do choose to transfer your child to the new school, he or she must remain there for the full school year.

**To which schools may my child transfer?**

Under the School Choice Program, students at *FRJTC* School may choose to attend one of the following schools:

<b>Name of School and Grade Level</b>	<b>School Performance Score</b>
Provencal Elem/Middle School	107.2
Marthaville Elem/Jr. High School	88.6
East Natchitoches Elem/Middle School	73.5
M. R. Weaver Elem	73.4
Natchitoches Magnet (application)	138.0
Lakeview High	77.8
Goldonna Elem/Jr. High	93.7
Cloutierville Elem/Jr. High	71.2
Fairview Alpha Elem/Jr. High	70.3
L P Vaughn Elem/Middle	73.8

If you choose to have your child attend one of these schools, please select your first and second choices, with your first choice as number 1 and your second choice as number 2 on the enclosed choice form. These schools did make AYP and have higher School Improvement Scores than *FRJTC*.

**Is my child guaranteed a place in an accepting school?**

Every effort will be made to give parents their first choice if requesting a transfer. However, it is possible that your child may not be granted enrollment in your first school of choice. Students will be granted enrollment in the schools above based upon enrollment limits, individual achievement scores, and income levels as prescribed by NCLB.

### **Will my child be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities in the new school?**

Your child will be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at the new school as per Louisiana High School Athletic Association guidelines.

### **How will my child get to a receiving school?**

If your transfer application is approved, your child will have free transportation to the receiving school. If your child will be attending one of the choice schools then your child will ride the bus to *FRJTC* where another bus will transport your child to the Choice school.

### **What is the deadline for applying?**

If you decide you want to send your child to one of the receiving schools, the enclosed *Choice Request Form* must be returned to the **FRJTC OFFICE** or the school of choice no later than Wednesday, **September 5, 2011**). If we do not receive the *Choice Request Form* from you by *September 5, 2011* your child will remain enrolled at *FRJTC* School.

### **When will you tell me if my transfer application is approved?**

Parents will receive an official notification informing them their transfer application is approved within 14 days. Students may start attending the choice schools on *September 19, 2011* or as soon as official notification is received by parents. Transfers will be handled as soon as possible.

### **What if I choose to have my child continue to attend *FRJTC* School?**

You would continue to send your child to *FRJTC* School as registered.

### **Important Facts to Know:**

- ◆ Transportation will be provided by the Natchitoches PSB and bus information will be available by *September 19, 2010*. Students participating in the Choice Program will catch their normal/regular assigned bus to *FRJTC*. Another bus will be at *FRJTC* and will transport students from *FRJTC* to their choice school. The choice schools do take in and let out later than *FRJTC*. The choice schools let out at *2:45 pm*. Transportation will not be available until September 26, 2011.
- ◆ A choice transfer is valid with transportation while *FRJTC* is considered a “school in need of improvement.” When *FRJTC* is no longer considered a “school in need of improvement,” your child **may continue** to attend the chosen school of choice until he/she completes the highest grade the school has to offer. **However, bus transportation is not provided.**

