



HAMILTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
3074 Hickory Valley Rd,
423/209-8400
Chattanooga, TN 37421

August 12, 2008

Dear Howard SAT and East Side Parents,

I am delighted to report that Hamilton County made the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goal for the 2007-08 school years as indicated below. This means that the district has been determined to be in “Good Standing” by the Tennessee Department of Education.

Elementary and Middle Schools

	Attendance	Percent Tested	Reading/Language Arts plus Writing Proficient & Advanced	Math – Proficient and Advanced
State Goal – AYP	93%	95%	89%	86%
Hamilton Co. 2007-08	Not Available	100%	91%	90%
East Side Elementary	Not Available	100%	78.3%	87.1%
Howard Middle	Not Available	100%	73.6%	74.5%

High Schools

	Graduation Rate	Percent Tested	Reading/Language Arts and Writing Proficient & Advanced	Math – Proficient and Advanced
State Goal – AYP	90%	95%	93%	83%
Hamilton Co. 2007-08	71.6%	100%	93%	85%
Howard High	47.9%	99%	83.3	57.3%

However, there are two Title I schools (Howard SAT and East Side Elementary) that have been identified by the Tennessee Department of Education as “High Priority.” This identification means that the schools did not meet the State Department’s criteria for “Good Standing.” Of the 78 elementary/secondary schools in Hamilton County, 73 met the state's criteria for "Good Standing."

The children in Title I High Priority schools have the right to transfer to another school in Hamilton County that is in Good Standing. Transportation will be provided at no expense to the parents. Please take a few minutes to read about the schools’ activities and achievements and decide what is best for your child.

High Priority School	Comments
<p>Howard School of Academics and Technology (Middle School)</p>	<p>Howard Middle School was identified as a “High Priority” school last year because the students with disabilities (special education students) did not meet the AYP goal. This year, Howard Middle School met the safe harbor AYP goal. However, it takes two consecutive years for a school to come off the “High Priority” list. If Howard Middle makes AYP this year, it will be considered in “Good Standing” with the State Department for the 2008-09 year and will come off the list.</p> <p>Howard Middle uses federal funds to pay for (1) Gateway coaches to work with children during the school day, (2) a Family Partnership Specialist to help engage parents, (3) professional development for teachers, (3) curriculum coaches to work with teachers during the day and provide professional training, (4) instructional materials for students, (5) computers/software, and (6) educational field trips at no cost to the parents. Every year, Howard Middle students participate in the district’s Saturday Writing Academy. Students who attend receive a certificate, trophy, special golf shirt, and a wonderful celebration. Supplemental Educational Service providers give Howard students tutoring at the school and in community centers.</p> <p>The teachers and students at Howard Middle have worked very hard to help the school come off the High Priority List.</p>
<p>Howard School of Academics and Technology (High School)</p>	<p>Last year, Howard High made “safe harbor” in the academic areas (reading/language arts and math.) However, because the school did not reduce the percent of students who dropped out of school, it remained on the high priority list. This year, Howard failed to meet the graduation rate.</p> <p>Extra personnel hired to help Howard SAT include 1) Gateway coaches, 2) family partnership specialist, 3) trainer in classroom management and 4) additional administrators and 5) extra guidance counselor. A truancy officer has also been hired to address Howard’s graduation and attendance rate.</p> <p>Howard is rich in technology. It also has ample funds for instructional materials and student field trips at no cost to the parents. There are also programs in place to help students pass the ACT and SAT tests at no cost to the parents. Howard SAT also has a strong vocational program which gives students experiences in printing, construction, cosmetology, and various other vocations.</p>
<p>East Side Elementary</p>	<p>East Side Elementary made Safe Harbor AYP in all areas for the 2007-08 school year. However, a school must make AYP two consecutive years to be a school in good standing. In the past, East Side did not make adequate progress in reading, but did make adequate progress in math. Extra personnel have been hired to help East Side make AYP including 1) family partnership specialist, 2) 2 full time interventionists, and 3) interpreter. East Side uses Title I funds to hire two instructional coaches, one full time interventionist and four part-time interventionists. The school has ample funds for field trips and materials at no cost to the parents.</p> <p>East Side teachers provide extensive after school tutoring in the school building at no cost to the parents. Transportation home is provided. Supplemental Educational Services are provided at the nearby Resurrected Baptist Church at no cost to the parents. Transportation to the center and transportation home is provided at no cost to the parents.</p>

In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Law, parents are able to transfer away from schools that are considered "High Priority." Please take a few minutes to review the fourth page of this letter. It will show how your school did in meeting AYP as well as give comparative data on the receiving schools. If you decide to transfer away from your zoned school, you may use the form on the last page.

Parents can help their children succeed in school by:

- ✓ Encouraging consistent attendance
- ✓ Having regular conversation with school staff
- ✓ Having a place designated for homework
- ✓ Limiting television
- ✓ Reviewing the student's daily work
- ✓ Making sure that the children receive enough rest

The two Title I schools have worked very hard and have many strategies in place to help students. Some of the strategies to raise student achievement include the following:

- ✓ **Supplemental Educational Services for Eligible Students. A brochure will be mailed to you by September 30th explaining the options for Supplemental Educational Services**
- ✓ After School Tutoring at No Cost With Transportation Provided
- ✓ Saturday Writing Academy at No Cost to Parents
- ✓ Model classroom teachers at East Side Elementary
- ✓ Lower Pupil to Teacher Ratio
- ✓ Additional Instructional Materials
- ✓ Summer School Programs at No Cost to Parents
- ✓ Field Trips at No Cost to Parents
- ✓ Additional Computers/Technology
- ✓ Enrichment Opportunities at No Cost to Parents

Please note that the granting of this transfer request will require that your student remain at the requested school for at least one year. Your child may remain at the requested school until he/she reaches the assigned school's highest grade level. If you want to apply for a Choice Transfer for your student, please fill out the enclosed form and send it in as soon as possible. The deadline date is **August 22, 2008.**

Hamilton County Department of Education
Attention: Sheryl Randolph
3074 Hickory Valley Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421

You should receive the status of your request by mail within a few days of your request – no later August 31st. If you do not receive notification, please call 209-8654 to inquire.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Randolph

Director of Student Services
Hamilton County Department of Education

SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR CHOICE TRANSFER

Program Improvement School	% Proficient and Advanced - Read/Write/LA	% Proficient and Advanced Math	Transfer Options	% Proficient and Advanced - Read/Write/LA	% Proficient and Advanced Math	Transportation Information
East Side Elementary	78%	87%	Ooltewah Elementary	99%	96%	Transportation Provided
			Snow Hill Elementary	95%	94%	Transportation Provided
Howard SAT (Middle)	74%	75%	Hixson Middle	90%	90%	Transportation Provided
			East Ridge Middle	89%	88%	Transportation Provided
Howard SAT High (9-12)	83%	51%	East Ridge High	91%	91%	Transportation Provided
			Sale Creek High	99%	87%	Transportation Provided
Soddy Daisy High and Lookout Valley Middle/High are no longer eligible for NCLB Choice Transfers.						

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CHOICE TRANSFER
“NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND”
Hamilton County Department of Education
3074 Hickory Valley Road, Bldg. 200-1
*Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421 * (423) 209-8654*

Student's Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____
Grade _____ Sex _____ Student's Social Security Number _____
Student Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Information – Student lives with: ___ Mother & Father ___ Mother ___ Father ___ Other
Family Telephone Number (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone (____) _____ - _____
Birth Date ____/____/____ Ethnic Code: ___Asian ___Black ___Hispanic ___Indian ___White ___Pacific Islander
Parent/Guardian Name _____ Work Phone _____

School Student Attended in 2007-08 _____ Grade _____
School Student is Zoned/Assigned to Attend in 2008-2009. _____ Grade _____

Does this student receive special education services? _____ If yes, describe. _____
Special Education students will be placed according to his/her IEP (Individualized Educational Plan). Transfer Choices

(See Page 4)

1st School Choice _____
2nd School Choice _____

Do you need transportation? Yes No

Applications must be received in the Student Assignment office by **August 22, 2008**. Completed applications should be sent to:

Department of Student Assignment
Attention: Sheryl Randolph
Hamilton County Department of Education
3074 Hickory Valley Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421

Parent's or Guardian's Certification

I hereby certify that the information provided on this form is accurate and true.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date Signed

Relationship to Student