

Georgia Flexibility Waiver Notice of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

Charlton County School System

1259 Third Street

Folkston, Georgia 31537

Dr. Susan Allen, Director of Exceptional Programs

912-496-2596

sallen@charlton.k12.ga.us

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Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On February 9, 2012 the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) received waivers from ten requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of 2001. ESEA/NCLB requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of the school's academic achievement as well as the school's designation under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver and to help you understand what the waiver means for you and your child.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the GaDOE transitioned from needs improvement (NI) school designations based on adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports to Reward, Priority, Focus and Alert Schools designations based on ESEA Flexibility Waiver formulas. Title I schools will now implement specific programs and interventions based on Reward, Priority, Focus, and Alert Schools status. In addition, the GaDOE ESEA Flexibility Waiver outlines Georgia's new Single Statewide Accountability System, the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). The CCRPI serves as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia. The state system will give parents, students, teachers and families a more complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations and where it is not.

The Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver also eliminated Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Public School Choice (Choice). However, for schools designated as Priority or Focus (or Alert if they choose to provide the service) the Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver provides greater flexibility in designing a flexible learning program (FLP) tailored to the needs of the schools. As a result, these identified schools will have the capacity to serve more students in need of additional academic support.

Please note: Priority Schools and Focus Schools are identified and served with support interventions for 3 years.

Reward Schools replace the Title I Distinguished Schools and Distinguished Districts designations. They are identified annually and may be classified as either Highest-Performing Schools or High-Progress Schools. Schools designated as Highest-Performing Reward Schools are in the top 5% of Title I schools and either have the highest performance for all students over three years or are high schools with the highest graduation rates in Georgia. Schools designated as High-Progress Reward Schools must be in the top 10% of Title I schools and either have the highest progress in performance

for all students over three years or be high schools that are making the most progress in increasing graduation rates.

Priority Schools are Title I schools that are among the lowest 5% of Title I schools in the state based on the achievement of the *All Students* group in terms of proficiency on the statewide assessments and has demonstrated a lack of progress on those assessments over a number of years in the *All Students* group; are a Title I-participating or Title I-eligible high school with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of years; or, are a Tier I or Tier II school under the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program that is using SIG funds to implement a school intervention model.

Focus Schools are 10% of Title I schools that have the largest within-school gaps between the highest-achieving subgroup or subgroups and the lowest-achieving subgroup or subgroups or, at the high school level, have the largest within-school gaps in graduation rates (within-school-gaps Focus School). They can also be Title I high schools with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of years that are not identified as a Priority School (low-graduation-rate Focus School).

Alert Schools are identified each year and consist of Title I and Non-Title I schools based on nine ESEA/NCLB subgroups. They fall into one of the three following categories using ESEA disaggregated subgroups or subject performance on both statewide assessments and graduation rate: *Graduation Alert, Subgroup Alert* or *Subject Alert*.

I extend congratulations from the Charlton County School System to the staff, students, and parents of St. George Elementary School as we announce that the school is designated a Reward School for the 2013-2014 school year. We are also proud to announce that none of our schools are identified as Priority, Focus or Alert Schools. This means we are continuing to provide a quality education to all of our students and we will continue to dedicate ourselves to providing this quality education to the children of Charlton County.

If you have additional questions or concerns please contact: Dr. Susan Allen, Director of Exceptional Programs, 912-496-2596, or sallen@charlton.k12.ga.us

Thank you,



Susan D. Allen, Ed.D.