

**Red Clay Consolidated School District
Neighborhood School Plan
Supplemental Information
October 17, 2002**

JECD Policy

The Red Clay Board of Education does not want to change policy two weeks prior to the open enrollment period for Choice. The Board does not believe there is sufficient time for proper public notice. The policy, which was developed for magnet schools, has not been applied to choice applications and will not be applied to the Neighborhood School Plan. The Board will clarify this and take action on the JECD policy after choice applications are processed. Race will not be a factor in the enrollment process at any school in the district.

School Assignments for Students not Submitting a Choice Application

The District will request that all students at entry levels grades submit a choice application. At the beginning of the Choice period, parents will be sent a letter informing them of the school their child will attend the following school year if no Choice application is submitted. Assignment to schools will be based on the current feeder patterns or continuation of a current choice invitation. Students may continue to attend a school of Choice until the end of the program or grade configuration.

Invitations to schools will be issued based on the procedure outlined in the Choice policy. Students who elect not to submit a choice application will be assigned to their current feeder school, as opposed to the closest school with seats in the neighborhood zone.

Brandywine Springs Preference Zone

Students living within the Brandywine Springs preference zone will be assigned to their current feeder school if they do not submit a choice application.

Transportation

Students assigned to feeder schools will be transported on existing feeder bus routes. Students who attend schools through the choice process may access existing bus routes to their school of choice, including schools in other neighborhood zones. The District has demonstrated that it has existing bus stops in the city for students who wish to attend suburban schools. The district also has existing routes for suburban students who wish to attend city schools.

Assignment to Neighborhood Schools

Below are the enrollment charts containing the information requested by the State Board. Table I contains current enrollment and utilization data excluding out-of-district students. Table II contains neighborhood school assignments for secondary schools with Cab Calloway students excluded.

Table I

SCHOOL	Current Enrollment w/o out-of-district Choice	Current Utilization w/o out-of-district Choice
Forest Oak	609	94%
Heritage	501	99%
Highlands	315	93%
Lewis	379	80%
Shortlidge	233	41%
Linden Hill	540	98%
Baltz	761	80%
Richardson Park	591	97%
Marbrook	511	94%
Richey	383	108%
Brandywine Springs	586	101%
Mote	450	86%
Warner	784	67%

AI DuPont Middle	564	90%
HB DuPont Middle	841	110%
Skyline	680	96%
Stanton	592	79%
Conrad	714	72%
Dickinson	988	95%
AI DuPont High	1208	105%
McKean	1260	95%

Table II

SCHOOL	Neighborhood School Enrollment w/o Cab students	Neighborhood School Utilization w/o Cab students
AI DuPont Middle	1098	174%
HB DuPont Middle	440	57%
Skyline	582	88%
Stanton	472	62%
Conrad	759	76%
Dickinson	971	93%
AI DuPont High	1591	138%
McKean	986	74%

The district has provided the State Board with data showing that it is not possible to assign all of our students to their closest school. As we have demonstrated, some schools would be massively overcrowded. We sensed, however, that at least some State Board members would propose that, in those cases, it would be relatively easy for the district to “slide” these excess populations to other schools that do not experience such overcrowding. Our first observation is that, even if such a “leveling off” was reasonable, it will nevertheless not constitute compliance with the Act. Next, we hope that the State Board appreciates the difficulties that would arise if the district were to attempt such a “leveling off”. The first question would be how to decide which children, all of whom are entitled to attend the overcrowded school under the Act, should be sent to some other school. If the closest residential developments are assigned to the school until the school is full, then the development furthest away must travel an even greater distance to the next closest school with available space. If the farthest residential developments are assigned to the school until the school is full, then students living next to the school will not be able to attend that school. In either scenario, a group of students and their families will experience substantial hardship because of the arbitrary decisions made by the district. Nor would the difficulties stop there. In each year thereafter, fluctuations in student populations will require annual adjustments to the school assignments.

Fair and Equitable

The State Board, through its counsel, asked for additional information from the District as to the issue of the Plan being “fair and equitable”. The District believes that its plan is clearly fair and equitable as it provides for the ability of all students within Red Clay to access schools, including the schools to which they are closest. Moreover, the student and parent will know what the child’s assignment is (current feeder pattern school) should the parent find it then unnecessary to file a choice application. Additionally, the District provides bus transportation for students who wish, through choice, to access schools that are a great distance from their home. Consequently, the Plan provides the maximum flexibility for all families to Red Clay schools while still providing certainty to the families as to their child’s student assignment should they wish not to engage in the choice process.