



**Questions and Answers About**  
**Adequate Yearly Progress and Public School Choice**

1. When will we know to which school we have been assigned and will it be before the first day of school? How will parents be notified if their request is accepted?
  - a. We will begin notifying parents, via telephone, of the status of their request on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.
2. Will families be placed together?
  - a. There is a committed effort to place families together but there is no guarantee.
3. For kindergarten kids who are currently signed up for full day—will they still be in full day if they change schools?
  - a. No. Our full day programs district-wide are at or very near capacity. Children will be offered a half-day program at the choice school.
4. If my kindergartener does not get full day at the requested school, could he stay at our home school this year and transfer him next year to be with his sibling, who I would want to transfer this year?
  - a. If there is no All Day Kindergarten opening at the Public School Choice site, parents may elect to keep the student at the home school in All Day Kindergarten.
  - b. There is no guarantee that a child who transfers next year would be placed at the same Public Choice School as a sibling.
5. Can I choose any school to move my child to?
  - a. No. Schools will be designated in the Public School Choice option according to how close they are to the home school and ability to handle more students.
6. Will everyone who requests a move receive it or will some have to stay at Red El/Einstein?
  - a. All families will be offered a spot at a designated Public School Choice school who want one.
7. Once the transfer request has been made for a student, will they be allowed to continue at that school until the 6<sup>th</sup> grade?
  - a. If a student is in fifth grade, they may continue in that school through sixth grade. They will then go to their home school junior high. Sixth graders will spend one year in the Choice School and then proceed to their home school junior high.
    - i. Einstein to Evergreen Junior High
    - ii. Redmond to Redmond Junior High

- b. If a student is in kindergarten through fourth grade, they may stay in the Public School Choice School so long as that school continues to make AYP and the home school is in Improvement. It takes two years of making AYP for a school to exit Improvement.
8. If my child switches elementary schools, how is it determined which Jr. High they attend?
  - a. Students will attend their home junior high, no matter what elementary school they attend.
9. If we continue at our home school this year, will we have the same option to transfer next year?
  - a. Yes. Public School Choice is an option as long as the home school does not make AYP or remains in Improvement.
10. When will the current 7<sup>th</sup> graders get their scores?
  - a. Families will receive 7<sup>th</sup> grade WASL scores within the first two weeks of the school year from their junior high.
11. Are there any additional resources available to the school to fix the problems?
  - a. Einstein and Redmond Elementary receive additional staffing to support all students in each school.
12. Will teachers that are not performing be encouraged to move on?
  - a. We are committed to having high performing teachers in all classrooms in LWSD. Each teacher is evaluated in accordance with the LWSD/LWEA contract. Teachers who are struggling receive additional support and mentoring.
13. If half the school leaves, will half the teachers leave? Or will class sizes be cut in half?
  - a. It is our hope that all students will remain at Einstein and Redmond Elementary. We will follow our district staffing protocol, which puts a limit on the amount of students who will be in each classroom. We are hopeful that staffing will remain constant at RES and EES.
14. With the focus on AYP, will high performing students be ignored?
  - a. No. We will continue to serve our continuum of learners. Teachers must know each student well and provide them with an appropriate amount of support and challenge.
15. Will parents or community members be allowed to participate in development of the improvement plan?
  - a. We will seek parent input/guidance as we modify the ongoing Continuous Improvement Plan at each school.
16. How long do you think it will take for Redmond El/Einstein to make AYP?
  - a. All district schools that did not make AYP will make every effort to achieve that status. Keep in mind, though, that this measure is arbitrary and difficult to meet if a school has significant numbers of students in one of the groups that have a more difficult time with standardized tests. About 60% of schools statewide did not make AYP this year.
  - b. With the fact that the No Child Left Behind Act requires that 100% of students are at standard by 2014, it is highly likely that no schools nation-wide will make AYP in the near future. The legislation will need to be modified.
17. When will we be notified of school choice?

- a. If you have filed a request, you will be notified Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Those who file between now and September 14 will be notified as soon as a place can be found for the student.
18. Where should we look for a class list with our child's name on it? When?
  - a. Your child's name will be posted on the class list at his/her home school at the usual time that class lists are posted.
19. Will there be an effort to keep neighborhoods together -- or will there be several buses coming down our street?
  - a. Each family is considered on an individual basis.
20. If Mann, Rockwell and Wilder are full, what happens? Do we shift to other schools?
  - a. If the schools are full then the district will identify space at other schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress.
- 21) Will we have the choice to move schools in the middle of the year?
  - a) No. You have until September 14 to decide if you want your student to move to another school.
- 22) If you do get a transfer and you aren't happy there, can you transfer back to your original school?
  - a) There is always a place at your neighborhood school (Redmond Elementary or Einstein Elementary) for your child.
- 23) What paperwork needs to be filled out in order to complete the transfer?
  - a) For parents, the only paperwork is the request for Public School Choice. The district takes care of the rest.
- 24) Will after school programs have room for those who request a transfer?
  - a) You will need to contact the specific program at the school that your student is assigned to in order to find out what opportunities are available.
- 25) Are the two appointed schools our only options?
  - a) These two schools are the options currently being offered. Depending on the number of students who opt for school choice in specific grades and the capacity of these schools to handle additional students, one or more additional schools may be involved.
- 26) How is the school deciding how transfers are handled, i.e., first come, first serve, or is there other criteria?
  - a) The district office will first handle all the transfers that have been submitted by August 26, 2009. It will try to honor the first choice of each family. However, if there are more requests than spaces in a specific school and grade, a lottery system will be used to place students. After the 26<sup>th</sup>, the district will again try to honor the first choice of each family as they submit their forms, however, there may be fewer options available. Even if the paperwork is submitted at the end of the day on September 14, however, the district is obligated to find a space for your child in a school that did meet Adequate Yearly Progress.
- 27) If a student did not pass last year, will they have priority to transfer?
  - a) All students have the option to transfer.

- 28) If we choose to transfer and the other schools are full, what are the other options?
- The district has an obligation to find a space for your student in a school that meets AYP. The first options will be to place students in existing classes.
- 29) How will overcrowding be handled?
- We will follow the district staffing protocol, which limits the number of students in a classroom.
- 30) Why did this letter come out so late?
- The timeline for this process is primarily set by the state, which moved up by two weeks their announcement of AYP status because these letters were actually sent even later in past years. While the WASL test is taken in the spring, we do not get results back from the state until July. At that time we have to work with the state to ensure that each school's data is accurate. For example, the state will count every test booklet issued, assigning a 0 to a test book that wasn't used, until we confirm that a student did not take the test. So there is quite a lot of time spent by the state in getting all of the final data correct. As a result, the AYP status for any of our schools was not finalized until the state's announcement on August 14. After that, the principal has to write a letter that is within some very strict confines prescribed by the law. The letter has to be approved by the state, then printed and mailed.
- 31) What happens if the demographics shift to an extreme?
- Our schools are prepared to teach the students who are there on the first day of school, no matter who they are. All students will be met at the level they are.
  - Remember that as AYP standards continue to rise, the likelihood is that no schools will meet AYP in the fairly near future. At that time, Public School Choice will not be possible since there will be no schools meeting AYP to transfer to. At that time, this process will be moot and students will all return to their home schools.
- 32) Does the public choice form guarantee a transfer to one of the schools listed on the form?
- No. Depending on the number of requests and the spaces available at specific grades in those schools, additional schools may also be included in the process.
- 33) What happens to the teacher/student ratio at the school you transfer to?
- We will follow the district staffing protocol, which limits class sizes. However, it is likely that classes at each grade level will approach the higher end of those levels.
- 34) Do we have until September 14<sup>th</sup> to make our final decision?
- Yes, you have until September 14 to make that final decision. The later your decision is made, however, the less likely it is that you will get your first choice of school to transfer to.
- 35) Are the students who are in ELL from the Einstein attendance area or are they bussed to Einstein?
- Many students in ELL are from the Einstein attendance area. Additional students are from other schools. Programs like ELL bring students together from a larger geographic area so that the additional resources needed for those programs can be consolidated in one place.
- 36) What are the differentiating factors or advantages for sending my kids to my home school vs. the other schools?

- a) Public School Choice is only offered at Title I schools, which receive additional federal funds. That gives your home school resources that are not available at the other schools. That said, every school is a little different: you will need to look at the best fit for your family.
- 37) What is your assessment of why the reaction here was so different from that at Muir?
- a) Every school and every neighborhood is different. Among the factors that may affect the reaction are parental expectations of public schools in general; parent satisfaction with the home school; reputation of the schools offered in Public School Choice; understanding of the ramifications of moving your student to another school; timing of the notification. On the last item, Muir's letter went out much closer to the start of school since OSPi did not finalize AYP status until the very end of August last year.
- 38) How can I know the bus ride duration from my home to the schools listed on the choice form?
- a) We will be able to tell you how long the routes will take to travel once Transportation has established them.
- 39) If we choose to leave Redmond El./Einstein and go to another school, will my younger children who are not yet in school be grandfathered in to the other school?
- a) We will be offering choice for as long as required by AYP sanctions. So if we are still required to offer choice when your younger child enters your home school, you will be able to request it. While we make every effort to meet your choice we cannot guarantee it will be possible.

As a reminder, once a school is no longer under sanctions we will not offer this type of choice, nor will we provide any transportation services to any students.