



NEWS

Texas
Education
Agency

1701 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-1494

(512)463-9000

Contact: Communications

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PUBLIC EDUCATION GRANT LIST RELEASED

AUSTIN – Students enrolled in 575 public schools will be eligible to transfer to a different school next fall under the Public Education Grant program created by the Texas Legislature.

The PEG program is one of a number of choice programs available in Texas public schools that allow students to transfer to schools outside their home attendance zone. Thousands of students annually transfer to magnet programs and alternative education centers or take advantage of traditional transfer procedures available in their local school district.

Transfers are available under the PEG program for the 1998-99 school year if a school meets certain criteria. Schools are placed on the PEG list if 50 percent or more of their students did not pass the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) examination in any two of the three preceding years (1995, 1996, 1997) or if they received the lowest possible rating from the state's accountability system in any of the three preceding years.

Because the program covers a three-year period of academic performance, some schools are on the list even though they currently have outstanding student performance. The vast majority of the schools on the PEG list are not rated low-performing under the state's accountability system.

Students who live within the attendance boundaries of a school on the PEG list may request a transfer to another district or to another school within their home district. State law does not require a district to accept a PEG-eligible student. Students may not transfer from one PEG school to another PEG school, beginning with the 1998-99 school year. Districts may not charge tuition to any student who transfers under the PEG program. Districts are not required to provide transportation to PEG transfer students.

Parents of students who are eligible to participate in this program are to be notified by their school district by Feb. 1. This list applies to transfers for the 1998-99 school year. Most districts begin accepting transfer requests for the following school year during the preceding spring semester.

To seek a transfer under the program, parents should contact the district or school to which they hope to transfer their child to determine whether the district or a particular campus is accepting PEG transfers. They are not required to make an application at the state level, nor are they required to notify state officials when a transfer is accepted. Children can transfer to a public school or charter school under this program.

If a child transfers to a different district under this program, state funding follows the child to that district if the number of PEG transfers into a district exceed the number of PEG students who transfer out of a district.

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Legislators established the PEG program in 1995. In the 1996-97 school year, four school districts – Alice, Arlington, Dallas and Grapevine - accepted 43 PEG transfer students. Figures for the 1997-98 school year will not be available until late summer.

A list of PEG schools is attached. Each superintendent's office has a copy of the list. It can also be found on the Texas Education Agency's web page at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>.

Distribution: Capitol Press, Austin Media, Texas On-Line Media

METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFYING SCHOOLS ON THE 1998-99 PEG LIST

Schools are included on the list if:

- 1) less than 50 percent of the students passed:
 - a) any reading, writing or mathematics test on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS), summed across the grades tested at the school
 - b) in any two of the three years: 1995, 1996, or 1997

[This analysis was based on all students tested; performance of student groups was not examined.]

OR

- 2) the school was rated *Low-Performing* in either 1995, 1996, or 1997.

Notes:

- Alternative education schools, schools with fewer than five students tested on TAAS, charter schools, and schools with no TAAS data (i.e., schools which are paired for accountability purposes) were excluded from the list.
- The TAAS results were those used in the accountability system, which are based on the non-special education students tested who were enrolled in the district in late October.
- Accountability ratings are determined by evaluating performance on three indicators: TAAS results, the annual dropout rate, and the annual attendance rate. Therefore, a campus could receive the *Low-performing* rating even though TAAS performance may have been above the minimally acceptable standard.

