



## Holmes District School Board

701 East Pennsylvania Avenue  
Bonifay, FL 32425  
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**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Steve Griffin  
**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Vernon Lewis  
Chairman  
Jason Motley, Vice Chairman  
Rickey Callahan  
Anthony Register  
Gary Scott

July 24, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our schools are committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district. Your child attends Bonifay Elementary School, which receives federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. We are very pleased that your child's school met 97% of the state's criteria; however, BES did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2008 in the area of writing. BES has been identified as a *School in Need of Improvement* for four years and parents have the following options for the 2008-09 school year:

- You may choose to have your child remain at the current school.
- You may choose to transfer your child to another public school in the district that is not in need of improvement, with transportation provided for as long as Bonifay Elementary remains a school in need of improvement. Since we do not have a school to offer as a transfer choice for grades K-4, those students (K-4) who qualify for free or reduced lunch will be offered Supplemental Educational Services (free tutoring).
- If your child is eligible for free or reduced-priced lunches, you may choose for your child to remain at his or her current school and receive "Supplemental Educational Services" (free tutoring). An enrollment form is enclosed for those students.

Compared to other elementary schools in the district, Bonifay Elementary met 97% of the state's criteria, PDLE met 97%, Poplar Springs 85%, Bethlehem 97%, and Bonifay Middle met 100%. If you would like more information regarding your child's school and how it compares to all schools in the district, please contact Principal Rodd Jones at 850-547-3631 or visit the Florida Department of Education's website at [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org) or call 1-800-447-1636.

To help the school improve student achievement and make AYP the school staff is developing and implementing a comprehensive plan that includes: identifying and addressing the specific needs of students and expanding the knowledge base and skill set of teachers. The district is helping the school by giving information on effective curriculum and instructional strategies, analyzing student performance data to guide decisions, and increasing staff training and planning. You can get involved in this process by coming to parent-school meetings on student achievement, supporting and reinforcing your child's good study habits, reviewing your child's homework and test results, and setting goals with your child for continued academic improvement. Helpful information is available at [www.justreadflorida.com](http://www.justreadflorida.com), [www.justreadfamilies.org](http://www.justreadfamilies.org), [www.facts.org](http://www.facts.org), [www.familyeducation.com](http://www.familyeducation.com), and [www.hdsb.org](http://www.hdsb.org).

Complete the enclosed form(s), listing your choices, and return the form(s) in the self-addressed, stamped envelope by Aug. 20, 2008 or return forms to your child's school, the District Office at 701 E. Penn. Ave., or at the Provider Fair on Aug. 8th at Bonifay Elementary School. If you have questions concerning any information contained in this letter or need help with the forms, please contact Principal Rodd Jones at 850-547-3631 or Mrs. Gwen Young, Title I Administrator at the District Office at 850-547-5928, ext. 253.

Sincerely,

Steve Griffin, Superintendent

## Bonifay Elementary - School Choice Options – July 24, 2008

Federal law requires school districts to offer parents in Title I public schools, the opportunity to transfer their children to other public schools in the same school district. Your child is among the students who are eligible to transfer to another school. However, at this time, no elementary school that is allowed to accept transferring students under the federal law is available in our district. Therefore, we will offer supplemental educational services (SES) to those **students qualifying for free or reduced lunch**. Here are some answers to questions you may have about SES.

1. **What are supplemental educational services?**

SES is extra academic help that we're providing to help your child improve his or her academic performance (free tutoring).

2. **Can every student get SES?**

No. Under federal law, we must give priority to the lowest-income, lowest-achieving students. Therefore, only those students who are the lowest-achieving (according to FCAT scores) and who qualify for free or reduced lunch may receive SES.

3. **How will I know if my child can get SES?**

If your child qualifies, there should be an enrollment form in this packet of information. If you believe there is an error, please contact Mrs. Young at 850-547-5928, ext. 228. We also plan to have a district-wide Provider Fair on **Thurs. Aug. 8th at 5:30 P.M.** at Bonifay Elementary School where you can meet representatives from the companies providing tutoring. If you have questions or concerns, we will gladly assist you with any of the CHOICE information.

4. **Who can answer my questions about SES?**

If you have any more questions about SES, please call Mrs. Gwen Young at the district office at 850-547-5928 ext. 253 or email her at [youngg@hdsb.org](mailto:youngg@hdsb.org).

**It is EXTREMELY important that you return this information in the envelope provided, even if your child does not qualify.**

School Your Child Attends		Grade – 2008-09 School Year		
Name of Student		Parent/Guardian Name		
Address	Home Phone	Work Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address

Check one of the following options if this applies to your child:

1. My child qualifies (free or reduced lunch) for SES and I am requesting Supplemental Educational Services from a state approved provider which I have selected.
2. My child qualifies for SES, but I **do not** wish for him/her to receive Supplemental Educational Services at this time.
3. My child does not qualify for SES.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please return this form in the self-addressed, stamped envelope by Aug. 20, 2008. You may also return it to the district office or during the Provider Fair on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>.**