



SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

P.O. BOX 391
BARTOW, FLORIDA 33831

(863) 534-0500

1915 SOUTH FLORAL AVENUE
BARTOW, FLORIDA 33830

April 13, 2009

Board Members

CHAIRMAN
FRANK J. O'REILLY
DISTRICT 1

LORI CUNNINGHAM
DISTRICT 2

HAZEL SELLERS
DISTRICT 3

DICK MULLENAX
DISTRICT 4

KAY FIELDS
DISTRICT 5

MARGARET A. LOFTON
DISTRICT 6

TIM HARRIS
DISTRICT 7

C. WESLEY BRIDGES, II
General Counsel

Administration

GAIL F. MCKINZIE, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Dear Parent,

Your child is zoned for Combee Elementary, which receives federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Because your child's school did not meet these standards for two or more years, it has been identified as a *School in Need of Improvement*. This designation alone does not indicate a failing school, but provides a focus on areas for school improvement by principals, teachers, and parents.

What are your School Choice options?

Under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, when a school has been identified as a *School in Need of Improvement*, parents will have options for the following school year in 2009-2010:

- You may choose to have your child remain at the current school.
- If your child is eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch, you may choose for your child to remain at the current school and apply to receive free tutoring "Supplemental Educational Services". We will send you additional information about free tutoring during the summer, along with a separate application.
- You may choose to apply to transfer your child to one of the schools listed below. If demand for School Choice exceeds available funds, by law, placement and transportation will be prioritized to the lowest achieving low-income students.

If you want to apply to transfer your child to another public school, your school options are as follows:

Wendell Watson EI.	07/08 School Grade A	Met 90% of AYP standards
Carlton Palmore EI.	07/08 School Grade A	Met 82% of AYP standards
Combee Elementary	07/08 School Grade D	Met 67% of AYP standards

For more information about your child's school or other schools in the district, please contact the principal of the school or visit the Florida Department of Education's website at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>.

It's up to you!

If you want your child to remain at Combee Elementary, you do not need to complete this application or do anything further.

If you want your child to go to another school, please complete the attached application and return it to Title I Programs, P.O. Box 391, Bartow, FL 33831 by May 6, 2009. If you have questions or need help with this application, please contact the Title I Office at 863-534-0646.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Ashley
Director, Federal Programs