



1442 Sheppard Street ~ Minden, Louisiana 71055 ~ Phone: (318) 377-7052 ~ www.websterpsb.org

**J.L. Jones Elementary School
2021-2022 School Choice Information
January 4, 2021**

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

The Webster Parish School Board is required by both Federal law and the Louisiana School Accountability Program to develop and maintain a *Public School Choice* policy for any school with a *School Performance Score* (SPS) below levels set by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). *School Choice* allows eligible students to transfer to an academically acceptable school.

Why was J.L. Jones Elementary School identified as a “struggling school” and how does it compare to other schools in Webster Parish and other schools in Louisiana?

According to Louisiana State Accountability Guidelines, J.L. Jones Elementary School has been deemed a struggling school because the school's letter grade is a “D”. This letter grade is based on the school data from the 2018-2019 year. Due to the COVID-19 March closure of Louisiana schools, spring 2020 assessments and reporting requirements received waivers. As a result, Louisiana did not require standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year.

What is J.L. Jones Elementary School doing to address the problem of low achievement, and what is the school system and the Louisiana State Department of Education doing to help them address the problem?

The school system administration (school site and district staff) will evaluate all areas of instruction at J.L. Jones Elementary School. This evaluation will include observations, interviews, and surveys of students, teachers, and parents to determine what areas need to be improved. This information obtained will be used to prepare a Schoolwide Plan. These plans require classroom instruction and teacher training to focus on improving the areas in which students at J.L. Jones Elementary School are having difficulty. J.L. Jones Elementary School personnel will analyze test scores and other data to target all areas of academic need. The school will implement reading and math literacy strategies, interventions, technology-assisted instruction, and innovative math strategies. Consultants will work with the administration, staff, and students to identify the most effective instructional practices for the diverse student population that attends J.L. Jones Elementary School. The State Department of Education will be sending assistance in the form of additional funding, and additional assistance includes:

- Staffing with certified and effective teachers and highly qualified paraprofessionals
- Technology- assisted programs to enhance and enrich learning: Accelerated Reader, myON, DIBELS, and ZEARN
- Interventions and remediation
- Targeted Professional Development (data analysis, assessments, Learn Zillion, Eureka Math, and Writing Revolution)
- Enrichment (Music, P.E., Art)
- Job-embedded PLC
- Virtual Learning

How can I become involved in addressing the problems that caused J.L. Jones Elementary School to be identified as a school in need of improvement?

Families are encouraged to arrange a private conference with their child's teacher(s) to discuss ways to improve academic performance. Families are also invited to participate as members of the School Improvement Team at J.L. Jones Elementary School. The School Improvement Team is a group composed of the principal, teachers, and parents that work to improve the education and overall learning experience for all students at J.L. Jones Elementary School. Even if a family member does not serve as a member of the School Improvement Team, he or she may attend meetings of the team to discuss possible changes in any area of instruction to improve J.L. Jones Elementary School.

Do I have to transfer my child to another school?

No, you do not have to transfer your child to another school.

We are providing families with this opportunity as an option. The decision is entirely up to you, so you should base your decision on **what you think is best for your child.** If you choose to have your child attend school at J.L. Jones Elementary School, continue with the registration process as required. If you do choose to transfer your child to the new school, he or she **must remain there for the full school year.**

To which schools may my child transfer?

Under the School Choice Program, students zoned to J.L. Jones Elementary School may choose to attend the elementary schools listed on the application (see next page). Please note that the letter grades listed are from last year. If you choose to have your child attend one of these schools, please select your first, second, and third choices with your first choice as number 1, your second choice as number 2, and your third choice as number 3 on the attached choice form. These schools did make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and have higher School Performance Scores than J.L. Jones Elementary School.

What if I choose to have my child continue to attend J.L. Jones Elementary School?

You would continue to send your child to J.L. Jones Elementary School and register there as usual.

Is my child guaranteed a place in an accepting school?

Every effort will be made to give parents their first choice if requesting a transfer. However, it is possible that your child may not be granted enrollment in your first school of choice. Students will be granted enrollment in a school based upon enrollment limits, individual achievement scores, and income levels as prescribed by ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). Priority consideration will be given to at-risk students.

How will my child get to a receiving school?

The parent/legal guardian will be responsible for transportation to and from the receiving school. Webster Parish **will not** provide buses for school choice transportation. This includes transfer buses.

What is the deadline for applying?

If you decide you want your child to transfer to one of the receiving schools, the attached *Choice Request Form* must be returned to the **Webster Parish School Board Office, Attention: Yolanda Palmer, 1442 Sheppard Street, Minden, LA 71055; by 4:00 P.M. on January 11, 2021.** If we do not receive the *Choice Request Form* from you by 4:00 P.M. on January 11, 2021, your child will remain at J.L. Jones Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year.

When will you tell me if my transfer application is approved?

Parents will receive notification from the district informing them if their transfer application is approved.

***Slots will be filled based on capacity availability.**

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Oreatia Banks, Elementary Supervisor, at (318) 377-7052.

Sincerely,



Mr. Johnny Rowland
Superintendent
(318) 377-7052

2021-2022 J.L. Jones Elementary Choice Request Form Only

"ESSA-Every Student Succeeds Act"
Public School Choice

Webster Parish School District 1442 Sheppard Street Minden, LA 71055 Phone: (318) 377-7052

Student Name: _____ SSN: _____
(Please Print) LAST FIRST

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____
(Street) Apt # City

My child will be in the _____ grade (2021-2022).

Name of Parent or Legal Guardian _____
(Please Print)

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Return this form to Webster Parish School Board Office by 4:00 P.M. on January 11, 2021.
***Please indicate school by ranking 1st or 2nd or 3rd next to your choice.**

CHOICES

_____ North Webster Upper Elementary (3-5) 6245 Hwy 160, Cotton Valley, LA 71018 Letter Grade ___C___

_____ Central Elementary (PreK-6) 5701 Hwy 531, Dubberly, LA 71024 Letter Grade ___C___

_____ Doyline High School (PreK-12) 376 College St, Doyline, LA 71023 Letter Grade ___C___

_____ North Webster Lower (PreK-2nd) – 229 Hwy Alt. 2, Shongaloo, LA 71072 Letter Grade ___C___

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

*Webster Parish School District will make an effort to assign your child to your first school choice; however, we cannot assure you that we will be able to honor your request. The lowest achieving students will receive priority.

OFFICE USE ONLY

APPROVED

- 1st Choice
- 2nd Choice
- 3rd Choice
- DENIED

Reason Denied: _____

Superintendent/Designee Signature

Date