



Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc.

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Pursuing Justice,
Strengthening Lives

The Children's Legal Alliance

Collaborative Legal Services and Advocacy for Kids

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INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL TRANSFERS TO ACCREDITED DISTRICTS

What does the *Breitenfeld v. School District of Clayton* decision mean for you and your child?

On June 11, 2013, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in *Breitenfeld v. School District of Clayton* that students in unaccredited school districts in Missouri may transfer into accredited school districts in the same county or in adjoining counties. Riverview Gardens School District and Normandy School District are unaccredited school districts. This means that if you reside in an unaccredited district, **your child** has a right to transfer into an accredited school district in St. Louis County or in an adjoining county.

TRANSFER APPLICATION: Enclosed is a transfer application prepared by the Cooperating School Districts that you must complete and bring to your home school district for verification by the District in order to transfer your child. To complete the transfer application you will need: 1) a birth certificate for the student, 2) your driver's license or state-issued ID card, and 3) proof of residency (which is described on the application).

DEADLINE: The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ("DESE") has said that the transfer application should be submitted by close of business on **August 1, 2013**.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT: If you wish to exercise **your child's** right to transfer and **you live in the Riverview Gardens School District**, take these steps: (1) Notify Riverview Gardens School District of your intent to exercise your right by making a "residency verification appointment" by calling 314-869-2505 ext. 1415. You must bring the completed transfer application to this appointment, along with the documents listed on that application to verify residency. (2) Next, you should select the school district which you would like for **your child** to attend. Once you have selected a district, call that district and inquire about the enrollment process under the *Breitenfeld v. School District of Clayton* decision. Then, follow its instructions.

Daniel K. Glazier, Executive Director and General Counsel



Legal Services of Eastern Missouri is proud to be a Legal Services Corporation (LSC) grantee, and we comply with all LSC conditions and prohibitions in acceptance of all funds.



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF NORMANDY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

If you wish to exercise **your child's** right to transfer and live in *Normandy School District*, take these steps: (1) Schedule an appointment with one of the parent facilitators at the Normandy School District Board of Education at 3855 Lucas & Hunt by calling or emailing Douglas Dickson 314-493-0409 or Vicki Collier 314-493-0454. The email address to use is transferrequest@normandysd.org. (2) After the appointment, you should select the school district you would like **your child** to attend. Once you have selected a district, call that district and ask about the enrollment process under the Breitenfeld v. School District of Clayton decision. Then, follow its instructions.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation may or may not be provided to and from school for **your child** depending upon the school district you choose for **your child** to attend.

- If you reside in **Riverview Gardens**, transportation is only currently being provided to and from Mehlville School District in St. Louis County.
- If you reside in **Normandy School District**, transportation is only currently being provided to and from Francis Howell School District in St. Charles County.

The above instructions are based upon "guidance" which DESE has issued for school districts and parents to follow. **A copy of the most current version of that DESE guidance is enclosed for your reference.**

If you have questions about the content of this fact sheet, please feel free to contact:

Amanda Schneider, Staff Attorney, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri 314-256-8768

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Copies of this informational fact sheet, transfer application and DESE guidance can also be found on the LSEM website at http://www.lsem.org/Education_58.aspx and at the statewide legal services website at: www.lsmo.org

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