
VICC Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation



For Immediate Release – 12 noon, Friday, October 19, 2012

VICC Board Extends Enrollment of New Transfer Students
Extension Unanimously Approved at Special October 19 Meeting

The Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) unanimously approved a five-year extension period to continue to enroll new students into the program when its Board of Directors met in special session at 11:30 a.m. Friday, October 19, in the Spellman Center, Leadership Center Conference Room at Lindenwood University in St. Charles.

District participation by continuing to accept new students during this extension remains optional at each individual district's discretion. Currently enrolled students are able to continue in the program through graduation even if their chosen district decides not to enroll new students during the extension period.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the landmark desegregation case which changed the face of education in the St. Louis metro area and created the nation's largest school choice program.

The St. Louis Student Transfer Program was established to increase racial integration in metropolitan area public schools under a Settlement Agreement reached in the area-wide St. Louis desegregation case, filed in 1972, and approved by the Federal Court in 1983. The program allows African-American students residing in the City of St. Louis to attend participating school districts in St. Louis County, provided certain eligibility requirements regarding residency and behavior records are met. The program also allows non-African-American students who live in participating suburban school districts to transfer into St. Louis Magnet Schools in the city.

In June, 2007, the VICC Board unanimously approved a five-year extension to the 1999 Settlement Agreement, which continued the new enrollment period through the 2013-2014 school year. This second five-year extension allows new enrollments through the 2018-2019 school year.

Actual enrollment of city students in the VICC program for the 2012-2013 school year is 5,130 students, as of September 26. City families are highly interested in the program, with more than 4,000 applications received for only 517 new spaces made available by the districts in 2012-2013. Currently 86 suburban students are enrolled in the city magnet schools. More applications continue to be received from county families than spaces available in the popular magnets.

At the height of the transfer program in 1993-1994, a total of 13,493 city students attended schools in St.

Louis County. Since the 1999 Settlement Agreement, districts began phasing out available seats at the rate of between five and six percent annually.

According to VICC CEO David Glaser, “Tens of thousands of students both in the city and the county have benefitted from participation in the program. Students who transfer from the city achieve higher test scores, better attendance and higher graduation rates when compared with students who remain in the city. County resident students gain by being educated in a more diverse environment which is great preparation for college and the work world.”

Other benefits for transferring students, he notes are slightly more difficult to quantify, but include exposure to a new environment, new challenges and new opportunities. “Students see and observe the successes of others and decide they want the same opportunities as their classmates.”

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For more information, contact

David Glaser, CEO, 314.721.8422, ext. 3013 or 314.574.6968 (cell)
dglaser@choicecorp.org, or

Sharon Heisel, 314.721.8422, ext. 3014
sheisel@choicecorp.org