

August 22, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our district is dedicated to ensuring that our students succeed. While we have always held high expectations for our students, the federal No Child left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) has set new standards for all students, regular education and special education, to meet. Recently, our state released a report on the “adequate yearly progress” (AYP) our schools are making toward achieving the federal standard of 100% of the students scoring proficient on the state assessments by 2014.

The state report gives a simple “yes” or “no” grade, based solely on one state standardized test. Under NCLB, AYP is an all-or-nothing proposition. A school must meet the state standard or demonstrate an established increase of students meeting the state standard, for every subgroup. Scores are categorized and reported by nine subgroups; *total students, Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, low income, limited English, and special education*. If just one subgroup does not meet state standards, the entire school does not make AYP and is labeled as needing improvement. Please be aware that many good schools have not made AYP, both in our state and nationwide. That does not mean that these schools were unsuccessful.

Based on 2006 ASK results, Loring-Flemming Elementary School did not make AYP in Language Arts Literacy, falling just short in one sub-group. In 2007, Loring-Flemming met AYP goals in all sub-groups in both tests. In fact, the total student body and all sub-groups realized substantial gains in both Math and LAL scores. However, the NCLB rules state that a school must pass every sub-group test for two years in a row before the school is no longer considered “in need of improvement”. In the Spring of 2008, the ASK tests were prepared by a new testing company and the State is changing the way the tests are graded. Because of this, AYP determination will not happen until the end of October and schools must remain in the status that they were in during 2007.

As a result of all of this we are still considered a school in need of improvement. Therefore, in addition to the steps listed below, we are required to also offer parents the chance to transfer their children to another district school that made AYP.

We are committed to continually assessing and improving our programs for all students. Our teachers will continue to teach the district curriculum and to provide quality remedial opportunities for struggling students. Listed below is a sampling of various school and district instructional activities that are aimed to improve student skills and to enhance student achievement, with particular focus on specific subgroups who did not meet the state’s high expectations.

- Analyzing student performance data to guide instructional program decisions.
- Expanding the knowledge base and instructional skills of teachers through district and school based in-servicing programs.
- Improving the students’ math problem solving skills in accordance with our district math action plan.
- Developing innovative programs to address specific academic and social needs of our students.
- Monitoring of the remedial programs to ensure instruction includes skills critical to meeting AYP and to ensure specific low achieving students are receiving remedial services.
- Inviting specific students to take advantage of after-school remedial programs, which focus on skills critical to meeting AYP. Participation is strongly recommended, however, after-school program participation is voluntary.

Federal law requires school districts to offer parents in certain public schools the chance to transfer their child to another public school in the same school district. Your child's school will participate in this choice program this school year. The decision is entirely up to you, so you should base your decision on what you think is best for your child. A transfer is available to only Glendora Elementary School. We may not be able to transfer every child whose parent applies and we can not guarantee that transfers for brothers and sisters will be approved. Under federal law we must give first priority to the lowest-achieving, lowest-income students. Achievement will be based on the student's most recent score on the statewide assessment (ASK), or local end of year district assessment. Low income will be based on eligibility for free or reduced lunch. In case of a tie, we will approve transfers by lottery. The district will provide transportation to the accepting school for as long as your current school does not make AYP. Transportation would not be provided in the future if your current school's assessment results improve and AYP is met.

If you decide you want your child considered for transfer to the accepting school, you must mail the form below to the Superintendent's office no later than September 26<sup>th</sup>. Please mail the form to:

Mr. Thomas Seddon, Superintendent of Schools  
17 Erial Road, Blackwood, NJ 08012

Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Seddon,  
Superintendent of Schools

.....  
(Tear off and Return by September 26th)

Please print the following information.

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

(No guarantee that brothers and sisters will be approved) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_