

WOODBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Joseph Jones, III
SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parent:

The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) increases parents' choices about their children's education. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about this law and the provision for supplemental educational services for eligible students. Supplemental educational services are classes or tutoring that provide additional academic assistance to eligible students at a time outside the regular school day. These services must support and be consistent with the instruction provided by the school and the state's academic standards. Parents of eligible students will be notified with necessary information regarding these supplemental services.

NCLB requires districts to teach grade-level standards, use the most effective methods and instructional strategies for teaching students, and assess their progress each year. A school's progress is determined by adequate yearly progress (AYP), which is based primarily on how well students perform on the state assessments.

For AYP purposes for proficiency, a subgroup must contain at least 20 students who have been enrolled in the school for the full academic year. (The Students with Disabilities subgroup must contain at least 35.) Performance of the following subgroups is reported if the subgroup meets these size requirements:

- The school as a whole
- African-American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- Native American/American Indian
- White
- Other
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Students with Disabilities
- Limited English Proficient

Included in the AYP calculation is student participation. At least 95 percent (95%) of the total school population and each subgroup must take the state assessments.

NCLB allows for a *safe harbor* provision so that schools are not penalized for a particular group's performance being below the goal provided sufficient progress is made. For example, if the student group improved its performance by decreasing the number of students not proficient by at least ten percent (10%) over the previous year, the group would make AYP by qualifying for the safe harbor provision.

For the most recent Spring 2008 testing cycle, the state has changed the proficiency cut-off scores on the tests in grades 5 through 8. As a result, new AYP calculations for the upcoming 2008-09 school year for schools containing these grade spans have not been determined yet. Therefore, we have been instructed to inform you that our AYP status for the new school year will remain the same as last year.

Prior year testing placed Woodbury Jr.-Sr. High School in "Year 2" of School Improvement Status. At Woodbury, since the Jr.-Sr. High School includes students in both the "Middle School" grade span and the "High School" grade span, we need to meet the criteria for both grade spans for all subgroups assessed. The Senior High School met all 41 indicators and achieved AYP status in both the Spring 2007 and recent Spring 2008 testing. In the Junior High School, the school met 39 of 41 indicators in Spring 2007; as noted above, we await the results of the Spring 2008 testing.

Schools that do not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content areas (language arts literacy or mathematics) are identified as "in need of improvement" by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and must provide the opportunity for students to transfer to a high-performing school in the district where available. Under NCLB, Title I schools that do not make AYP for three (3) consecutive years must also provide supplemental educational services to eligible students.

Our district is unable to provide school choice because we have only one Jr.-Sr. High School. In lieu of choice, supplemental educational services will be offered to eligible students whose parents will be notified by mail.

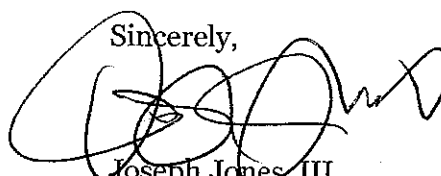
Parents of eligible students will receive a subsequent mailing later in September which will offer the option to request tutoring or supplemental educational services for their child outside of the regular school day. The families will be provided with a state-approved list of supplemental educational services providers. The list describes the services, qualifications, and evidence of effectiveness for each provider.

Each school in Year 2 must update their school improvement plan to identify how they will help increase academic achievement of the students. The school must consult with parents during the development of the plan. You are encouraged to participate in this process through conversation with the building principal.

The Woodbury Public Schools take the federal testing requirements under the NCLB legislation very seriously. The district is focusing on academic strategies to ensure that students are positioned to perform better in future testing situations.

We are proud of the work that we accomplish each day and look forward to partnering with you to ensure a high quality education for all students.

Sincerely,



Joseph Jones, III
Superintendent