

August 28, 2007

Dear Parents:

The Washington Township Public School District is dedicated to ensuring the success of all of our students. While we have always held high expectations for our students, the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)* has set new standards of achievement for all students.

Recently, the New Jersey Department of Education released its preliminary report on the “adequate yearly progress” (AYP) that our schools are making toward achieving proficiency for 100 percent of our students under NCLB.

The report gives a simple yes or no grade, based solely on student performance on a single state standardized test, the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge, ASK 3, 4, or 5, depending upon the grade level of your child. Under *No Child Left Behind*, achieving “adequate yearly progress” is an all-or-nothing proposition. I am happy to inform you that Hurffville Elementary achieved the AYP benchmarks in both language arts literacy and mathematics for the 2006-2007 school year.

We are firmly committed to achieving our goal of success for every student. For more information about AYP and what we’re doing to continue to enhance student performance, see the attached “Question and Answer” section.

Sincerely,

Joanne G. Robertson
Principal

AYP: Questions & Answers

1. WHAT IS AYP?

Under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* the United States Department of Education requires all districts and schools to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). To make AYP, each school must achieve 40 assessment targets plus an attendance rate target. The 40 assessment targets include 4 areas of test *performance* and *participation* (2 each in language arts and math), measured across 10 subgroups of students, and divided into categories such as race, economically disadvantaged, English language proficiency, and disability.

- To meet performance targets in language arts, 75% of the students must achieve scores that are “proficient” or better in language arts on our statewide assessments;
- To meet the mathematics performance target 62% of students must score proficient or better in the math portion of the statewide assessment;
- To meet the participation targets, 95% of students must take each portion of the assessment;
- In addition, schools must also meet a 90% annual attendance rate.

Each of the performance and participation standards must be met by all students, measured as a whole, and by each subgroup. If just one subgroup misses just one of the required targets, the entire school doesn’t make AYP.

2. DID OUR SCHOOL MAKE AYP?

Based on the state’s preliminary report, Hurffville Elementary achieved all of the 41 required targets. Therefore, our school did make AYP.

3. WHAT IS OUR SCHOOL DOING TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?

The Hurffville Elementary staff is committed to achieving the goals of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. Currently teachers and building administrators are developing and implementing a comprehensive plan that includes:

- Identifying and addressing the specific needs of our low performing students
- Expanding the knowledge base and skill set of teachers through in-district and out-of-district workshops and training opportunities
- Integrating ASK Prep strategies and activities into daily instruction
- Offering before-school and summer skill instructional programs
- Revising academic assessments to align them with the ASK supplemental materials to reinforce Core Content Standards

4. WHAT IS OUR DISTRICT DOING TO HELP OUR SCHOOL PROMOTE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?

The district is helping our school by:

- Providing information on effective curriculum and instructional strategies
- Analyzing student performance data to guide decisions
- Increasing professional development for our teachers
- Utilizing available grant funds to provide increased training, materials, and technology for our teaching staff
- Maintaining memberships and formal affiliations with professional agencies and organizations to access current research, professional development opportunities, materials, and technology
- Supporting advanced education for teachers and administrators
- Offering parent-child workshops on literacy and math
- Providing parent sessions on *Everyday Math* and *Connected Math*

5. HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN HELPING OUR SCHOOL PROMOTE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?

As a parent or guardian, you can help our school promote students' achievement on state tests by:

- Attending school-sponsored parent meetings relating to student achievement
- Supporting and reinforcing your child's good study habits
- Reviewing your child's homework and test results
- Setting goals with your child for continued academic improvement
- Becoming an active participant in name of school Parent Advisory Committee, School Health and Safety Committee, and/or Parent Teacher Organization
- Keeping open communication with the Hurffville Elementary principal, teachers, and counselors when questions arise and/or to provide feedback and suggestions