



West New York Board of Education

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*Maximizing all students' potential
for success in an ever-changing world.*

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TO: Parents/Guardians of Students in West New York School District

FROM: Superintendent John Fauta

SUBJECT: District In Need of Improvement (DINI) **HOLD STATUS**

The West New York School District has received its preliminary results for annual state assessments. The data shows that Memorial High School has achieved Adequate Yearly Progress in both Language Arts and Mathematics. In fact, Memorial High School has met the state Language Arts Literacy benchmark of 92% mastering the necessary skills needed to excel in the global workplace of the 21st century. Our scores are among the highest for all urban school districts and are on par with many suburban school districts.

The *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* requires all states to create their own high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do in language arts literacy and mathematics. Each *school* must achieve the state's proficiency standards each year until **all** students meet these standards in 2014. The measure of the annual targets is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). If a school does not meet its AYP targets for two consecutive years in the same content area, it is designated as a "School In Need of Improvement."

In addition to measuring each school, ESEA also requires the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to annually review the performance of each school *district*. For school year 2011-2012, the West New York School District was identified by the NJDOE as a "district in need of improvement in HOLD (*PASSING*) STATUS." A district is identified for improvement if it meets this criterion:

- Does not make AYP in all grade spans within the district—elementary (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8), and high school—for two consecutive years in either content area. Summary AYP by Content Area

Tested Grade Span	LAL		Math	
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2009-2010	2010-2011
Elementary	No	No	Yes	Yes
Middle	No	No	No	Yes
High School	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Since the West New York School District successfully achieved AYP in both Language Arts Literacy and in Math for the High School Grade Span, we are now in HOLD STATUS for the 2011-2012 school year. Hold Status indicates that all indicators were achieved, bringing us forward towards our goal of exiting improvement status.

As a Title I district in need of improvement, the West New York School District must do the following:

- Consult with parents and school staff when revising a District Improvement Plan. This plan explains how the district will use Title I and other funds to improve its schools in need of improvement;
- Reserve at least 10 percent of its annual Title I allocation to provide high-quality professional development for teachers and administrators to improve classroom teaching; and
- Continue to provide technical assistance to schools identified as Title I schools in need of improvement.

To be removed from district improvement status, the district must meet the grade span achievement standards, that is, make AYP in at least one grade span for two consecutive years in both content areas. West New York has now achieved this goal for one year and will continue to implement educational programs to maintain this achievement.

WE ARE AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

We Do Not Discriminate As Of Race, Creed, Age, National Origin, Gender, Sexual Orientation, or Disability

Parents are an integral part of ensuring the academic success of their children. Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and the district to support improvements:

- Learn more about ESEA requirements and Title I by accessing the NJDOE website at www.nj.gov/education/title1.
- Become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. The United States Department of Education (USDOE) website offers many helpful publications for parents at www.ed.gov/index.jhtml.
- Talk with district staff about the District Improvement Plan to help students meet the state standards in language arts literacy and mathematics.
- If you are income eligible and have a student who attends a Title I school in need of improvement, ask about the school choice option to transfer your child to a high-performing public school in the district. The USDE guidance on school choice is available at: www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/schoolchoiceguid.doc.
- If you are a parent of an eligible student who attends a Title I school in need of improvement, ask about supplemental educational services (SES) that may be available for your child. The SES offers extra academic services provided to eligible students outside of the regular school day. The USDOE guidance on SES is available at: www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/suppsvcsguid.doc.
- Visit your child's school and volunteer.

You are encouraged to contact your school principal or my office at (201) 553-4000 for further information on any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in school improvement efforts.

Helping children become academically proficient is everyone's responsibility. The West New York School District will be developing and implementing its improvement plan to bring the district out of improvement status. We look forward to working with parents and the community to help increase the academic achievement of our students.

Sincerely,



John Fauta