



# West New York Board of Education

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

## Schools in Need of Improvement

August 31, 2011

Dear Parents:

We are dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. The *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey.

AYP is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis every three years.

Schools that did not make AYP for one year (Year 1) receive an Early Warning designation to alert them that students did not meet at least one of the AYP indicators. If a school does not make AYP for *two or more* consecutive years in the same content area (language arts literacy and mathematics) it is identified as a school in need of improvement.

The status of the following school has changed. The West New York Middle School is now a Year Three School in need of improvement for not making AYP in the areas of Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics. For schools that are now in improvement status, their academic achievement in language arts literacy and mathematics can be compared to other schools in the state by referencing the NCLB State Report at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/>.

Because the West New York Middle School is not a Title I school, there are no additional requirements other than parent and public notification. This letter serves as meeting the parent notification requirement. Posting or linking to the AYP Status Reports and the NCLB Report meets the public notification requirements.

Our school is committed to addressing the issues that caused our school to miss AYP. Your support and input is welcome as we work to successfully achieve our student performance goals. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact your child's school principal to provide input and see how you can become involved in helping the school address its achievement issues.

Some of the steps we have already taken or plan to implement this year to address the problem(s) that placed your child's school in improvement status include the following:

- Extended Day Program
  - Services all populations for students in need in Math, Language Arts and Science
- Looping of students
  - Allows teachers to familiarize themselves with the students needs and gives them more time to assist students with their needs
- Eighty minutes of Language Arts daily which are aligned with the NJCCCS.
- Eighty minutes of Math daily which are aligned with the NJCCCS.
- Faculty professional development
- Team Planning
  - Enables cross curriculum planning
  - Allows teachers and staff help pinpoint students' needs
- Summer Math Readiness Program for students that lacked math skills
- Summer Math Packages for all students
- Data Analysis Team
  - Analyzes state test data to improve on weaknesses
- Open Access to Media Center and Library before and after school
- School Leadership Council
- Promethean boards were installed in classrooms
- Technology Survey to help insure we are current in technology
- Open House for parents
- Parents Night
- PTO to help involve parents

## **WE ARE AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

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

Child Study Team housed in the Middle School

- Insures students with disabilities receive the services and modifications needed
- Helps provide assistance to teachers for best practices
- In-class support teachers
  - Help general education teachers implement services and modifications to students in their classroom
- Bi-lingual Facilitator

We want to continue serving your child, and we'll use all the resources available to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. We want you to become involved at your child's school by contacting Mr. Rodriguez, principal, at 201-553-4000 Extension 6501. Building and maintaining a high-quality school, is a job for the entire community.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year.

Sincerely,



John Fauta  
Superintendent of Schools