



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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Dear Parents:

Welcome to another school year! Your school, an award winning silver medal finalist of the Bill Clinton's Foundation for a Healthier Generation, is dedicated to the education and enrichment of the "whole" child. Administrators, teachers, and staff are committed to excellence.

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) 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 do 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 a school in need of improvement and certain sanctions must be applied.

The following school in our district has not made AYP for two consecutive years and has been identified as a school in need of Improvement:

Public School # 5—School in Need of Improvement Passing (Hold) Status—Successfully achieved AYP status in Language Arts Literacy and in Mathematics for both the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans.

Below is a comparison of how this school compares academically in language arts literacy and mathematics to other schools in our district and the state.

- Public School # 1—Achieved AYP status in Mathematics for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans and achieved AYP status in Language Arts Literacy for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans.
- Public School # 2—Achieved AYP status in Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy for the Middle Grade Spans; did not achieve AYP status in Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics for the Elementary Grade Span.
- Public School # 3—Achieved AYP status in Mathematics for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans; did not achieve AYP in Language Arts Literacy for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans.
- Public School # 4—Achieved AYP status in Mathematics for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans; did not achieve AYP in Language Arts Literacy for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans.
- Public School # 5—Achieved AYP status in Mathematics for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans and achieved AYP status in Language Arts Literacy for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans.
- Harry L. Bain School —Achieved AYP status in Mathematics for the Elementary and Middle Grade Spans; achieved AYP status in Language Arts Literacy for the Middle Grade Span; did not achieve AYP status in Language Arts Literacy for the Elementary Grade Span.

NCLB state reports for state comparisons are forthcoming.

The school improvement requirements that apply to your child's school are checked off below. For more information about these sanctions, please see the attached information sheet.

- Year 1 – Early Warning:** There are no school improvements requirements. Notification to parents of the SINI status is optional.
- Year 2 – School Choice:** Your child may transfer to a high-performing school in the district.
- Year 2 – Supplemental Educational Services:** Our district is unable to provide the choice option; supplemental educational services (SES) is available to income-eligible students.
- Years 2 & 3 – Supplemental Educational Services:** These services, such as tutoring, are offered to students who meet certain income criteria. In Year 3, your school may receive a Collaborative Assessment for Planning and Achievement (CAPA) scholastic audit from a team of school improvement experts. CAPA is part of a statewide system of support.
- Year 4 – Corrective Action:** In addition to school choice and SES, corrective action schools must take additional steps to improve students' academic performance. In Year 4, your school will receive a Collaborative Assessment for Planning and Achievement (CAPA) scholastic audit from a

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- team of school improvement experts if the visit was not conducted in Year 3. Your child's school was identified for corrective action for the following reasons: **[LIST REASONS]**
- Year 5 – Planning for Restructuring:** Because the school has not made AYP for five consecutive years, the district must restructure it, developing an alternate governance plan during Year 5. You will receive additional information regarding parent input into the restructuring plan as it is developed.
- Year 6 – Restructuring - 1:** The school has not made AYP for six consecutive years and is now in restructuring. The CAPA team, part of the statewide system of support, conducts a three-day visit to the school to review implementation of the restructuring plan and offer recommendations for district support.
- Year 7 and up – Restructuring - 2:** The school has not made AYP for seven or more consecutive years. The CAPA team meets with school and district administrators to continually review implementation of the restructuring plan.

As a parent, you are encouraged to contact your child's school principal to provide input to the school improvement plan 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:

- Providing 80-90 minutes of Language Arts and Mathematics instruction per day
- Academic support for struggling learners through the Basic Skills and Resource Programs.
- Extended Day Programs in Language Arts and Mathematics for all student populations in grades 2 through 6.
- Professional Development opportunities for teachers throughout the school year to ensure the highest quality instruction.
- Literacy experiences within art, music, library, and technology classes.
- Book Clubs
- Dr. Petroff and staff from the College of New Jersey will be implementing a Capacity-Building Project in School # 5 with the goal of closing the achievement gap and expanding opportunities for students to improve their skills in Language Arts based on the NJCCS through the use of universal design and differentiated instruction. Included in the plan are anchored activities, tiered assignments for reading and writing, thematic units, the use of technology, rubrics, graphic organizers, guided reading and thinking, Literature Circle Projects, Reader's Theater, Mind Mapping, Response Journals, and more
- An SLC (School Improvement Committee) is in place to develop a school improvement plan that identifies areas of need and programs and activities to help increase student achievement. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact your child's school principal to provide input to the school improvement plan and see how you can become involved in helping the school address its achievement issues.

The state is also active in helping the school and district achieve its academic goals by sponsoring trainings, school support teams (CAPA), and guidance.

A meeting will be held in School #5 on September 15, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the auditorium. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss goals and plans for the improvement of the school and parental options for school choice that will be made available to you.

We want to continue serving your child, and we'll use all the resources available to us to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. The district and each school must develop and implement a parental involvement policy. We encourage you to become involved in this and other initiatives at your child's school by contacting Principal Daniel Valdes at 201-553-4080 ext. 5001. 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