

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Raymond Broach
Interim Superintendent of Schools



Funded Programs, Grants Management
and Turnaround Schools
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Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

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, the 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 **Trenton Public School District** was identified by the NJDOE as a "district in need of improvement." 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.
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Tested Grade Spans	Summary AYP by Content Area			
	Language Arts Literacy		Mathematics	
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2009-2010	2010-2011
Middle	No	No	No	No
High School	No	No	No	No
Elementary	No	No	No	No

As a Title I district in need of improvement, **Trenton Public School District** must do the following:

- Consult with parents and school staff when developing (or 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.

Part of the technical assistance provided by the state for schools in corrective action is a comprehensive school review by a team of outside education experts. This team evaluates all areas of a school's operations and makes recommendations for improvement. The review called Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA) has been conducted in the following schools:

Thomas Cadwalader Elementary School	Deborah Giddens-Green	609-656-4660
Christopher Columbus Elementary School	Harriet Bass	609-656-4690
Ulysses S. Grant Elementary School	Alfonso Llano	609-656-4730
Hedgepeth-Williams Elementary School	Joseph Marazzo	609-656-4760
Benjamin Gregory Elementary School	Adrienne Hill	609-656-4740
Patton J. Hill Elementary School	Wayne Dennis	609-656-4780
Joyce Kilmer Elementary School	Paula Bethea	609-656-4800
Clara Parker Elementary School	Jeanette Harris	609-656-4880

Battle Monument Elementary School	Bernadette Trapp	609-656-4820
Gershom Mott Elementary School	Elizabeth Ramirez	609-656-4830
Carroll Robbins Elementary School	Dr. William Simpson	609-656-4910
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School	Marzene Bennett	609-656-4970
Grace A. Dunn Middle School	Addie Daniels-Lane	609-656-4700

The district will incorporate the recommendations of the CAPA team into its improvement plan. Ongoing meetings with the school occur throughout the year.

The district has the **Ulysses S. Grant Elementary School** planning for restructuring because the school has not made AYP for five consecutive years. The district must prepare a restructuring plan that includes alternative governance arrangements for this school.

The district has the following schools implementing their restructuring plans because they have not made AYP for six or more consecutive years. The plans include the alternative governance arrangement described in the Turnaround Model.

Christopher Columbus Elementary School	Harriet Bass	609-656-4690
Patton J. Hill Elementary School	Wayne Dennis	609-656-4780
Benjamin Gregory Elementary School	Adrienne Hill	609-656-4740
Joyce Kilmer Elementary School	Paula Bethea	609-656-4800

The Trenton Public School District has been identified as a District in Need of Improvement for the **eighth** consecutive year. Under the ESEA, the state must take at least one of the following corrective actions, consistent with state law:

1. Defer programmatic funds or reduce administrative funds.
2. Implement a new curriculum, including related professional development for staff that is based on scientific research and more likely to increase student achievement.
3. Reassign and/or reallocate district personnel relevant to the failure to make adequate yearly progress.
4. Appoint a Highly Skilled Professional to assist the superintendent and school board with the administration of affairs.

To determine the appropriate intervention for districts in need of improvement Year 3 and above, the NJDOE uses the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) process. A team of NJDOE staff uses the NJQSAC District Performance Review (DPR) instrument to assess the needs and capacity of the district along the five DPR areas: Operations Management, Instruction and Program, Governance, Fiscal Management, and Personnel.

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.

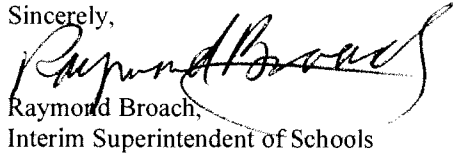
Parents are an integral part of ensuring the academic success of their children. Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and the district to support improvements:

- Learn more about the ESEA requirements and Title I by accessing the NJDOE Web site at www.nj.gov/education/title1.
- Become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. The United States Department of Education (USDE) Web site 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 USDE 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 at the telephone number listed above or the district superintendent's office at **609-656-4900 ext. 5454** 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 **Trenton Public 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Broach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Raymond Broach,
Interim Superintendent of Schools