

September 1, 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) requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey.

AYP for the high school is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments (HSPA) given to students in grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and for high schools, drop-out 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. Hold Status refers to if the school made AYP in a subject area; the improvement status did not progress. Both campuses made AYP and are not designated as a school in need of improvement in Language Arts Literacy.

The following schools in our district have not made AYP and have been identified for improvement as follows:

- Burlington County Institute of Technology- Westampton Campus
 - Year 3 (School in Need of Improvement)- Mathematics (**Hold Status**)
- Burlington County Institute of Technology- Medford Campus
 - Year 7 (School in Need of Improvement)- Mathematics

We have taken the following steps to implement plans to address the problem(s) that placed your child's school in improvement status:

- Quarterly Benchmark Testing in Academic Areas
- Data Informed Instruction
- Math and Language Arts Literacy cross-curricular planning in the Career Major classes
- Strengthened curriculum alignment to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards
- Increased Rigor in the Academic Courses
- Professional Learning Communities
- Increased Curricular Administrative Walkthroughs
- Professional Development in Instructional Skills and Strategies as well as Working With Parents
- Continual Improvement on School Culture and Environment

The state actively assists our district to achieve our academic goals by sponsoring trainings and guidance for administration and staff.

We want to continue serving your child, and we will use all the resources available 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, Dr. Frank Ranelli at the Medford Campus or Mr. Joseph Venuto at the Westampton Campus.

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,

Dr. Donald Lucas
Superintendent of Schools
Burlington County Institute of Technology

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Fact Sheet

This chart identifies the level of proficiency a school must achieve based on the annual state assessments. The targets increased during the 2010-211 school year.

Subject	Percent of Students Proficient
	High School Grade 11
Language Arts Literacy (Reading/Writing)	92%
Mathematics	86%

AYP is calculated for the total school population and for subgroups with students who have been enrolled in the school for the full academic year. The subgroups are as follows:

- Total Population
- Students with Disabilities
- Limited English Proficient
- White
- African-American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Native American
- Hispanic
- Other
- Economically Disadvantaged

NCLB allows for a “safe harbor” provision so that schools are not penalized for a particular student group’s performance being below the goal, providing sufficient progress is made. For example, if the student group improved its performance by decreasing the number of students not proficient by at least 10 percent over the previous year, the student group would make AYP by qualifying for the safe harbor provision.