



Jefferson County Board Of Education

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August 29, 2011

Dr. Phillip B. Hammonds
Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in the Jefferson County School District,

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) requires that the Alabama State Department of Education and our local school district inform parents/guardians of students about the performance of our district toward the goal of making all students 100% proficient in reading and mathematics. Part of the process required by this federal law is that every school or district receiving federal funds work toward meeting specific goals in reading and mathematics as measured by state assessments given each spring. School and district performance toward meeting those goals is called adequate yearly progress (AYP). The state annually reviews the performance of each school district by looking at the academic progress of all its students. The performance of each school combines to give us a "district score." Jefferson County School District met 88% of its goals this year, but has been designated as a district "in improvement" because we did not meet 100% of our district goals.

We are required to develop an **improvement plan** which the school district is doing at this time. For additional information regarding the district's plan, please contact your school principal or the school district representative listed at the end of this letter.

As a district identified for improvement, Jefferson County School District pledges to:

- Consult with parents and school staff when writing/revising the district improvement plan. The plan will explain how the district will use Title I and other funds to improve student achievement in the areas identified.
- Reserve at least 10% of its annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers and administrators tied to the areas where the district did not meet its target.
- Continue to provide assistance to any schools identified for improvement under NCLB.

Here are some suggestions on how you might help support your school and school district:

- Set aside a special place where your child can focus on practicing work assigned to be completed at home.
- Continue to encourage your child to do well in school by talking about your expectations for good performance.

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- Make sure your child attends class regularly and stays as healthy as possible.
- Talk with your child's teacher on a regular basis to learn how to support your child's academic progress and track whether or not high school students are progressing toward meeting graduation requirements.
- Volunteer to help at your child's school by listening to students read or reviewing simple math facts with them.

The state will offer the support to our district by:

- Making available technical assistance at our request.
- Assigning trained personnel to schools in multiple years of improvement.
- Maintaining a database of adequate yearly progress of all districts and schools so that information is provided to the public in a timely manner.
- Helping the district target and leverage funds for improvement efforts.
- Recommending ways to get more parents involved in their children's academic progress.

What else can parents do? Learn more about the NCLB requirements. Become aware of strategies to improve your child's academic achievement. Here are two web sites:

- The Alabama State Department of Education, www.alsde.edu.
- U.S. Department of Education, <http://www.ed.gov/parents/>.

For further information, you are encouraged to contact the district representative, Mrs. Carita Venable, 379-2153 or cvenable@jefcoed.com.

Respectfully,



Phillip B. Hammonds, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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