



Dawson County Schools

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PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S) NOTIFICATION OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READY PERFORMANCE INDEX (CCRPI)

August 9, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act of 1965, (ESEA) requires that parents/guardians who have children attending schools identified as needing improvement to be notified of the school's academic achievement. This letter is intended to provide information concerning the recent change in Georgia in regard to measuring school performance. With the approval of the *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001, schools were required to demonstrate gains toward meeting pre-determined Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs) in order to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The end goal was for 100% of all students to meet or exceed the state standards as measured by an annual standardized assessment. Schools that did not meet the state standard for AYP in the same subject for two or more consecutive years were placed in Needs Improvement (NI), and certain actions were required by the school to be removed from NI status.

Beginning with the 2012 – 2013 school year, Georgia schools will no longer be held to the accountability standards of NCLB, but a new set of standards as outlined in the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). The Georgia Department of Education submitted a flexibility waiver to the U.S. Department of Education and was granted approval to use the new accountability measurement system for the next three years. This, however, would be subject to change with the reauthorization of the ESEA. The Georgia Department of Education website (<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/NCLB-Waiver.aspx>) provides the following additional information:

As of March 30, 2012, Georgia was one of only 10 states to have been granted a waiver from No Child Left Behind (NCLB). No longer will Georgia be bound by the narrow definitions of success found in NCLB. The waiver enables the state to hold schools accountable and reward them for the work they do in all subjects and with all students.

In order to receive the waiver, the U.S. Department of Education required that states identify Title I Priority Schools, Focus Schools, and Reward Schools (details listed below). Achievement data from all core content areas and graduation rate data will be used to identify Priority and Focus Schools, which will replace the current Needs Improvement Schools designation. Reward Schools – which will be determined based on math, reading and English language arts results – will replace the current Title I Distinguished Schools designation and will be announced in September 2012.

Georgia will also identify Alert Schools in three categories: Subgroup Alert Schools, Subject Alert Schools, and Graduation Alert Schools. These Alert Schools will be identified based on a more detailed evaluation of subgroup performance and include non-Title I schools.

Georgia will begin using the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) next school year for state accountability purposes. The CCRPI has multiple indicators to determine a school's performance, rather than using a single test score given at one point in time. A numerical score out of 100% will be given to every school in the state and will be based on the following:

- Weighted average of
 - Achievement
 - Achievement Gap Closure
 - Progress
 - Achievement is the predominant factor
- Exceeding the Bar Indicators (may earn extra points for excellent work)

I am very proud to tell you that none of our non-Title I schools (Dawson County High, Dawson County Middle, & Riverview Middle Schools) have been identified as an Alert School. This accomplishment is very noteworthy. All Dawson County Schools take pride in the educational opportunities we are able to provide for our children. Our teachers and staff members work very hard to meet the needs of all students to ensure academic success. We have evidence that students are learning and making good progress, and we consider this to be an important indicator of success. Several different tests of student achievement have shown us that our students are making significant gains.

We want to continue serving your child and will use all the resources available to the Dawson County School District to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that as a parent, you will participate in developing our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you are interested in additional information regarding the CCRPI status of our school, please contact the principal of the school as shown below.

Dawson County High – Dr. Jute Wilson – (706) 265 – 6555 – jwilson@dawson.k12.ga.us

Dawson County Middle – Dr. Mark Merges – (706) 216 – 5801 – mmerges@dawson.k12.ga.us

Riverview Middle – Mr. Bill Zadernak – (706) 216 – 4849 – bzadernak@dawson.k12.ga.us

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education.

Sincerely,



Dr. Janice Darnell
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