



NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

New Milford Board of Education is dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundations necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires **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 in 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. The goal is 100% proficiency for all children, in all subjects, by 2014.

We are proud to announce that **ALL four of our district schools DID make AYP** for the 2010-2011 school year. This time last year, we explained that David E. Owens Middle School was in Year 2 SINI status because the school missed one indicator (Special Education Mathematics) out of 41 possible. We are proud to announce that we *improved in that area* and the DEOMS status has been changed to a "hold" status. It takes two years to become a SINI school and two years to regain our AYP designation. So we continue to persevere in this area as well as in all academic areas.

The school improvement requirements that apply to New Milford Board of Education for DEOMS are indicated below.

- ❑ **Years 2 (Hold) Supplemental Educational Services:** These services, such as tutoring, are offered to certain income-eligible students. *****MORE information for income-eligible families is forthcoming.**

All schools in need of improvement who receive federal Title I Funds must assemble a school improvement committee to develop a Unified School Improvement plan that identifies areas of need as well as programs and activities to help increase student achievement. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact the school administrators to see how you can become involved in helping the school to address its achievement issues.

Some of the steps that we have already taken or plan to implement within the next 10 months to address the problem(s) that placed DEOMS in the improvement status include the following:

- o Using data to drive mathematical instruction
- o Provide quality professional development to address proven strategies in mathematics
- o Targeting academic support and instruction for each student by math cluster areas
- o Implementing Professional Learning Communities to increase student achievement in mathematics
- o Enhancing our math interventions through SES for the income-eligible student population
- o Seeking additional technical assistance from other institutions of higher education as well as other educational entities

- o Implementing **Enrichment** for ALL for students in grades 6 and 7
- o Implementing a standards-based mathematics program (Connected Mathematics2) to improve student learning

The state is also active in helping DEOMS to achieve its academic goals by sponsoring trainings, school support teams and guidance.

New Milford Board of Education continues to serving the children of this community, and we will use all resources available to us to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort includes parental involvement and support. We encourage you to become involved in all other initiatives at DEOMS by contacting the Principal at 201-265-8661. Building and maintaining high-quality schools 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 this year and next.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Polizzi
Superintendent

c: Board of Education
Raymond Dorso
Danielle Shanley
Whitney Perro
Russel Petrocelli