



# Hamilton Township School District

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Dear Parents:

Hamilton Township School District is 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 is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators which include categories like test participation and attendance rate in order to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis every three years.

Schools are identified as Schools in Need of Improvement (SINI) and Districts are identified as Districts in Need of Improvement (DINI) based on the following criteria:

1. When a school does not make AYP for two or more consecutive years in the same content area (language arts literacy and/or mathematics) it is identified as a school in need of improvement (SINI) and certain sanctions must be applied.
2. When a district does not make AYP for two or more consecutive years in all grade spans within the district in language arts literacy and/or mathematics, it is identified as a district in need of improvement (DINI) and certain sanctions must be applied.

We are proud that our district has accomplished remarkable achievements on the 2011 NJASK in a year of increased AYP benchmarks. These accomplishments are as follows:

- George L. Hess Educational Complex met AYP for all subgroups in both language arts literacy and mathematics. What does this mean? The Hess School will be in Year 5 Hold status for language arts literacy for this school year and removed from all status for mathematics. When we achieve AYP for all subgroups for language arts literacy on the 2012 NJASK, the Hess School will be removed from SINI status, as this must be achieved for two consecutive years.
- William Davies Middle School met AYP for all subgroups for mathematics. What does this mean? The Davies School will be in Year 2 Hold status for mathematics for this school year. When we achieve AYP in all subgroups for mathematics on the 2012 NJASK, the Davies School will be removed from SINI status for mathematics, as this must be achieved for two consecutive years. The Davies School is in Year 5 SINI status for language arts literacy.

Given this current position, we must provide the following services listed below:

- George L. Hess Educational Complex: Planning for Restructuring & Supplemental Educational Services (SES): These tutorial services are offered to students who meet certain income criteria.



**All Children Can Learn! All Children Can Succeed!**

RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAR SCHOOL AND BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

- William Davies Middle School: Planning for Restructuring & Supplemental Educational Services (SES): These tutorial services are offered to students who meet certain income criteria.

In addition to this, the Hamilton Township School District was identified as a District in Need of Improvement (**DINI**) in Year 2 for Language Arts Literacy during the 2010-2011 school year and will be identified as a DINI in Year 2 Hold for Language Arts Literacy for the 2011-2012 school year. All schools in need of improvement that receive federal Title I funds must assemble a school improvement committee to develop a school improvement plan that identifies areas of need and programs and activities to help increase student achievement. All schools in need of improvement must involve parents and the community for input as the Title I Unified Plan is developed. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact your child's school principal to provide input to the school improvement plan and become an active participant in our educational planning.

We have worked to put the following initiatives in place and look forward to implementing others:

- Readers/Writers Workshop Model: A balanced literacy approach to reading/writing
- New Literacy Framework: Leveled Reading Instruction
- Full time Literacy Coach at the Shaner, Hess, and Davies Schools
- Professional Development – Culturally Responsive Classrooms
- Professional Development – Literacy Benchmarking with Fidelity
- Professional Development – Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments
- Enhanced Classroom Walk-Thru Tool (iObservation)
- District Formative Assessment Tool (Linkit)
- NJDOE TALENT21 Grant for Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments Gr. 6 & 7
- State sponsored training, support teams, and guidance.

We will continue to use all available resources to help every student in this district achieve success. An important part of this effort involves your support. We encourage you to become engaged in this and other initiatives at your child's school by contacting the school principal or my office. Your help is critical to us in reaching our future goals.

Thank you for your commitment to the education of your child.

Proudly serving the Hamilton Township School District I am,



Michelle M. Cappelluti  
Superintendent of Schools

*You can learn more about the AYP status of other districts in the state, NCLB requirements and Title I by accessing the New Jersey Department of Education Web site at [www.nj.gov/njded/title1](http://www.nj.gov/njded/title1).*

