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Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress, Public School Choice Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child

August 3, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We would like to make you aware of the choices and resources available to you based on the progress of your child's school under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

What are the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?

The PSSA is an annual exam given to Pennsylvania students at various grade levels to measure their academic progress. The state uses the PSSA to determine whether East Stroudsburg Area School District and each of our schools are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is determined by how successful districts and schools are in meeting state goals for attendance, graduation rates, test participation and academic progress.

To make AYP, a school must meet the state goals for the student body as a whole as well as for each subgroup of students. A subgroup consists of 40 or more students in a school in the following categories: ethnicity, socio-economic status, Individual Education Plan (IEP) – Special Education, and English Language Learner (ELL) status. The number of subgroups that a school has determines the number of “targets” that it must meet to make AYP. For the prior 2009-2010 school year, students at the East Stroudsburg Area School District made remarkable progress in Reading and Mathematics proficiency on 223 of the 230 targets. **The District met AYP in 2010, making AYP for three consecutive years.**

Resica Elementary School met 25 out of 25 AYP targets in 2010 and Made AYP. Below are highlights of Reading and Mathematics achievements:

Reading

- In Grades 3-5, the percentage of students scoring at proficient or advanced increased from **54% in 2003 to 70.2% in 2009 to 80.7% in 2010.** (What phenomenal improvement!)

Mathematics

- In Grades 3-5, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced increased from **40% in 2003 to 80.5% in 2009 to 85% in 2010.**

Although **Resica made AYP in 2010**, based on the performance of the IEP Subgroup in Reading and Math, Resica Elementary School was identified in 2009 as School Improvement I by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). As a result, Resica must make AYP for two consecutive years before the school can exit School Improvement. Based on 2010 PSSA data, Resica's AYP status is currently **MAKING PROGRESS IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT I**. We are extremely proud of the improvements in the IEP Subgroup in Reading and Math as indicated below.

<u>Reading</u>	<u>2009 Proficient/Advanced</u>	<u>2010 Proficient/Advanced</u>	<u>State Target</u>	<u>Increase</u>
IEP	17.7%	35.5%	63%	17.8%
<u>Math</u>	<u>2009 Proficient/Advanced</u>	<u>2010 Proficient/Advanced</u>	<u>State Target</u>	<u>Increase</u>
IEP	32.3%	54.8%	56%	22.5%

The Pennsylvania Department of Education tracked statewide gains in student achievement between 2002 and 2008 in reading and mathematics for the following subjects and grades:

Reading

- At Grade 5 the **Resica Elementary School** had a gain of 9.9 percentage points, compared to a district gain of 4.6 percentage points and a statewide gain of 4.2 percentage points.

Mathematics

- At Grade 5 **Resica Elementary School** had a gain of 35.4 percentage points compared to a district gain of 36.9 percentage points and a statewide gain of 19.8 percentage points

Please review the attachment for an explanation of school improvement and more information on how the East Stroudsburg Area School District compares to other Pennsylvania schools.

Action Plan for Improving Student Achievement

As a result of an in-depth needs assessment, **Resica Elementary School** has identified the following areas as key strategies for instructional improvement:

- Revamped the grade-level schedules so K-3 are overlapped for Math and Communication Arts. Grades 4 and 5 also overlap in each of these areas. This will permit Resica Elementary School to utilize fully all resources across grade levels.
- Use all school personnel for the last 40 minutes of each day for four days in the six-day schedule to provide additional research-based interventions for specific student needs in Math and Reading. During this time, Resica Elementary School will also be providing additional enrichment for students.
- Continue to provide guided math and reading during portions of Math and Communication Arts. Groups will reflect specific student levels, needs, and continued review of concepts introduced.
- Monitor attendance closely to provide consistency of instruction.
- Continue to refine the Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) learning initiative
- Continue to offer before and after-school tutoring and Homework Club

As outlined in our school improvement plan, the school district and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be offering Resica Elementary School assistance to implement these strategies by providing professional development to teachers, providing instructional coaches to support the classroom teachers and ensuring that instructional resources are readily accessible.

Explanation of School Choice Option

According to NCLB, **Resica Elementary School** must offer students the choice to transfer to another school in the district not in School Improvement. Please know that the staff at Resica Elementary has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through fifth grade. However, if you feel your child will be better served in another school in the district, you may request a transfer for your child to one of the following schools: *East Stroudsburg Elementary School, J. M. Hill Elementary School, and Smithfield Elementary School*. If you are the parent of an exceptional child or a child with limited English proficiency, please call Mrs. Irene Duggins at 570-424-8500 x1301 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Educational records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

Please note that if you opted for school choice during the 2009-2010 school year, you may continue to exercise that option until Resica exits from School Improvement. You should have received a letter asking you to indicate if you wanted your child to return to Resica or remain in the school of your choice for the 2010-2011 school year.

Transportation to one of these schools will be provided by the school district for as long as **Resica Elementary School** remains in Title I School Improvement. (Resica Elementary must make AYP for two consecutive years to exit School Improvement.) If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be permitted to attend the choice

school until he or she completes the 5th grade; however the district will not pay transportation costs once the school exits school improvement.

If you would like to request that your child be transferred to one of these other schools, please complete the “Request for School Transfer” form enclosed for each child and return the form to East Stroudsburg Area School District, Attention: Curriculum Office at 50 Vine Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 by Friday, August 13, 2010. The district will respond to your request by August 19, 2010, with written notice regarding your child’s school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Resica Elementary School. If you do not complete this form and return it by the end of the day August 13, 2010, we shall assume that your child will remain at Resica Elementary School.

How parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement

Parent support is essential to the success of **Resica Elementary School**. Communicating with your child’s teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child’s television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important.

The district-wide parent involvement policy will be updated this fall. If you are interested in providing input for this policy, please call Mrs. Irene Duggins at 570-424-8500 x1301 or Mrs. Annelle Prefontaine at 570-424-8500 x1140. In addition, Resica Elementary School will have its annual meeting to revise our school parent involvement policy and parent compact and to review parent rights under Title I. Initial District and individual school meetings will be scheduled in early fall of 2010. Parents of eligible students will be notified of specific dates, times, and places for these meetings, as well as all other Title I Parent Meetings held throughout the 2010-2011 school year.

The many successes at Resica Elementary cannot be measured in one test, and we appreciate your continued support. Although Resica is still considered as Making Progress in School Improvement I, we are extremely proud of the students’ progress, as evidenced by a 10.5% increase in overall achievement in Reading and a 4.5% increase in overall achievement in Math. Furthermore, the IEP subgroup made a 17.8% increase in Reading and a 22.5% increase in Math. As a whole, Resica Elementary School students have made steady progress as evidenced by an increase of 34% improvement in Reading and a 44% improvement in Math during the past seven years. This has been possible with the diligent effort of staff and parents. Resica Elementary School has excellent parent involvement, along with a dedicated staff, and will continue to offer before and after-school tutoring for students, as well as a homework club. Resica Elementary School also earned an Honorable Mention Award for Excellence in Education through the Colonial Intermediate IU20.

We must admit, however, that if **ALL** of our students are not doing well, we are not as good as we can be. That is our challenge, our goal and our commitment. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for every student. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gail Kulick at 570-223-6911.

Sincerely,

Gail Kulick
Principal

Irene Duggins
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

encs: Additional NCLB Information
Choice Selection Form