

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA**  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19130

October 10, 2014

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On August 20, 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) received waivers from ten requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of 2001. However, ESEA/NCLB still requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of the school's academic achievement as well as the school's designation under Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver and to help you understand what the waiver will mean for you and your child.

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, PDE no longer uses Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to determine a school's school improvement designation. Instead, in accordance with the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, PDE uses four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to determine a school's designation. The four AMOs include:

1. Measuring test participation rate
2. Graduation/attendance rate
3. Closing the achievement gap for all students
4. Closing the achievement gap for the historically underperforming students.

These new AMOs are used as the basis for the new Title I school designations that replaced the school improvement designations. The new designations for Title I schools are:

- Priority
- Focus
- Reward – High Progress
- Reward – High Achievement.

Please see the attachment for the criteria for these designations. In addition to the four designations above, there are schools that also receive the designation "Title I – No Designation."

All public schools in the state will receive a School Performance Profile (SPP) score based on 100 points. This score will be considered the school's academic performance score, and while not the criteria for determination of Reward, Priority or Focus status, it details student performance through the scoring of multiple measures that define achievement. The SPP also includes supports to permit schools to access materials and resources to improve in defined areas related to achievement.

Despite the progress made by our students, our school has been designated as a **Focus** School. This designation was based on test data from the 2012-13 school year and our school will keep this designation for three years.

As a **Focus** School, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, our community and administration to develop a school turnaround plan which will implement interventions to respond to the specific needs of improving the performance of our low-performing student subgroups. **Please contact school personal for interventions being implemented for the 2014-15 school year.**

To learn more about our school's School Performance Profile, please visit the website <http://paschoolperformance.org/>

Once at the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile website,

- To get started, select the "Role" of "Parent (In State)" at the bottom of the page
- Search for the school by name

An important part of the success plan for our school is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that, as a parent/guardian, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you are interested in participating in developing our school improvement initiatives, or to learn more about our School Performance Profile, please contact the school.

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

Sincerely,

School Principal