

September 15, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are 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. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks (see below), as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance, to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis every three years.

Subject	Percent of Students Proficient	
	Elementary Grades 3, 4, & 5	Middle Grades 6, 7, & 8
Language Arts Literacy (Reading/Writing)	73	72
Mathematics	69	62

AYP is calculated for the total school population and for subgroups with students who have been enrolled in the school for the full academic year.

The subgroups are as follows:

- Students with Disabilities
- Limited English Proficient
- White
- African-American
- Asian Pacific Islander
- Native American
- Hispanic
- Economically Disadvantaged

NCLB allows for a “safe harbor” provision so that schools are not penalized for a particular student group’s performance being below the goal, providing sufficient progress is made. For example, if the student group improved its performance by decreasing the number of students not proficient by at least 10 percent (10%) over the previous year, the student group would make AYP by qualifying for the safe harbor provision. Schools that do not make AYP for one (1) year receive an Early Warning designation to alert them that students did not meet at least one of the AYP indicators. If a school does not make AYP for *two (2) or more* consecutive years in the same content area (language arts literacy and mathematics), it is designated a “school in need of improvement.”

Golden Door Charter School has made not made AYP and is in Year 2. 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. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact Mrs. Lupi (NCLB Coordinator) or myself to provide input to the school improvement plan.

Some of the steps we have already taken or plan to implement this year to address the problem(s) that placed our school in improvement status include the following:

- Changes in staff
- Changes in curriculum
- Fully executed School in need of improvement plan
- Fully executed CAPA recommendations

In addition, Title I schools in need of improvement must implement certain interventions. For each consecutive year these schools do not make AYP, additional interventions must be applied. The school improvement requirements that apply to your Golden Door are as follows:

Year 2 – In Need of Improvement/School Choice: A school that does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area is designated as a “school in need of improvement.” Parental notification is required. For Title I schools certain interventions apply, including intradistrict school choice (or supplemental educational services if choice is not available), and development of a school improvement plan (Title I Unified Plan). The district must offer the school technical assistance to address the areas that caused the school to be in improvement.

We want to continue serving your child, and we’ll use all the resources available to us to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. The district and each school must develop and implement a parental involvement policy. We encourage you to become involved in this and other initiatives at your child’s school by contacting Mrs. Lupi by phone 201-795-4400 ext. 3205 or email

llupi@goldendoorschool.org. Building and maintaining a high-quality school 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 next year.

Sincerely,

Chief School Administrator