

CLIFFSIDE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

***Office of the Superintendent
THE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
525 PALISADE AVENUE
CLIFFSIDE PARK NJ 07010***

***Michael J. Romagnino
Superintendent of Schools***

***TEL: 201-313-2310
FAX: 201-943-7050
E-MAIL: mjr@cliffsidepark.edu***

August 31, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you know, students enrolled in New Jersey Public Schools participate in an annual state testing program to assess their progress in Language Arts and Mathematics. Through this testing program, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) determines whether or not students are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as established by federal and state No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Guidelines.

The spring 2011 state standardized test results document that Cliffside Park High School and School # 4 students made AYP in both Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics. I'm very proud of our students for this accomplishment and congratulate staff, students and parents for their collaboration.

Meanwhile, elementary school students in School # 3, #5 and #6 did not attain AYP in Language Arts Literacy; while middle school students also struggled to make AYP in math. As a result, these schools have been placed in Year I-Early Warning Status according to NCLB guidelines. As schools identified in Year 1-Early Warning Status, no intervention is required. However, I've met with your school principals to develop an improvement plan to address identified areas of weakness.

Since our elementary schools and middle school are at capacity enrollment, we will be unable to offer school choice as an option as recommended by guidelines in some cases. However, we will, once again, offer an after school remedial program and Homework Club to address student needs. We will also employ a literacy coach to assist teachers and students with implementing our revised 2012 improvement plan.

As part of the improvement plan, teacher training will continue to focus on the Balanced Literacy Initiative in order to enable students to practice higher order reading and writing skills in all content areas. The school district will also work to provide in class support to teachers to assist them with using alternative methods of instruction to better address the needs of second language learners and students with disabilities.

Cliffside Park School District also believes that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have the following:

1. A four-year college degree
2. A regular teaching certificate/license
3. Proof of his/her knowledge in the subject he/she teaches

We are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Cliffside Park School District. In September of 2011, 100% of our teachers will be highly qualified. In addition, staff members will continue learning through on-site and off-site professional development activities. Throughout the year, we will also be participating in the NJDOE IMPACT grant, which will offer teachers rigorous training in both math and literacy content. Meanwhile, our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

This information is provided to assure you that your local school district is in compliance with federal and state requirements. We are continuously working to improve our curriculum and teaching strategies to ensure that every students in engaged in the learning process. Please check the district website at <http://www.cliffsidepark.edu/Title1.html> for updated NCLB information. We will keep you abreast of any changes in school status as we receive information.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Romagnino

Michael J. Romagnino
Superintendent