



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



90 Delaware Avenue
Paterson, New Jersey 07503
Office: 973-321-0980
Fax: 973-321-0470

Donnie W. Evans, Ed.D.
State District Superintendent

April 30, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Three weeks ago, a letter went home from me informing you that the New Jersey Department of Education has identified 20 Paterson schools that are either among the lowest scoring schools in the state or they have other conditions that must be addressed such as significant achievement gaps. The District is required to take steps to help students in these schools (identified as "Priority" or "Focus" schools) to improve at a faster rate. A copy of this letter can also be found on the district's web site - www.paterson.k12.nj.us.

On Monday, April 23rd, I held a Community Forum to discuss this important topic, as well as the district's 4 week summer school requirement for students in these 20 schools who do not meet the district promotion policy (#5410) and who continue to score below proficient in English/Language Arts (ELA) and/or Mathematics on district or state tests. Please note that students in non-priority or focus schools will also have the opportunity to attend as well.

I would like to thank the parents who attended this forum and expressed your concerns. Although our overall goal has not changed - **the district will not promote students to the next grade level until they clearly demonstrate proficiency in ELA or Math or they demonstrate growth in these subjects** - I want to assure you that we did hear your concerns and we are looking into alternative options for the summer school requirement.

Please note that if your child is underperforming in Math or Language Arts, you should have already received a letter from your school principal advising you that participation in summer school could be required for your son or daughter. If you did not receive this notification, please call your child's school.

In the next few weeks, I will send a follow-up letter regarding the available alternative options for summer school.

As always, your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Donnie W. Evans, Ed.D.