

August 1, 2017

RE: Focus District Designation

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is required to annually review the performance of each school district. The Troy City School District was recently re-identified by NYSED as a Focus District for the 2017-2018 school year.

This designation occurs when one or more of a district's buildings is identified as a Focus or Priority School. Within the Troy City School District, two of our elementary schools, School 2 and Carroll Hill School, have been identified as Priority Schools. This school-level identification is based solely on the results of 2014-2015 New York State Grades 3-8 assessments in English Language Arts and math. While we recognize that our results on these assessments need to improve, we also know that progress is being made in classrooms every day and students are already making considerable improvements in these content areas. With the continued commitment of our dedicated faculty, staff, and administration, we are confident we will improve assessment results as well.

We will continue to strategically allocate our resources to further assist in our improvement efforts. These efforts include developing relevant and rigorous curriculum, offering new or expanded high-quality professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators, and focusing on ways to improve students' social and emotional health.

We encourage you to contact your School Principal for additional information about this designation or to find out how you can become involved in our school improvement efforts. The Troy City School District is committed to becoming a district in good standing and we understand the importance of having positive parent partnerships and participation to make that happen. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to help increase the academic achievement of each and every student in Troy.

Sincerely,



John Carmello, Superintendent