



ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
TROY

TODAY'S STUDENTS. TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

John Carmello
Superintendent of Schools

475 First Street
Troy, New York 12180

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July 20, 2015

RE: Focus District Designation

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in the Troy City School District:

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires all states to create their own high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. Each school must achieve the state's proficiency standards each year. In addition to measuring each school, NCLB also requires the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to annually review the performance of each school district. For school year 2015-2016, the Troy School District was identified by NYSED as a Focus District. Across NYS, schools are identified as Focus or Priority Schools. Within the Troy City School District, School 2 has been designated a Priority School and Troy Middle School has been designated as a Focus School. Since one of the district's buildings has been identified as a Priority School, the district is then designated a Focus District. The district is focusing on ELA and math across all buildings within the district in order to increase student achievement among all.

As a Focus District, The Troy School District must:

- Consult with parents and school staff when developing (or revising) a District Comprehensive Improvement Plan. This plan explains how the district will use Title I and other funds to improve its schools in need of improvement.
- Reserve at least 5 percent of its annual Title I allocation to provide high-quality professional development for teachers and administrators to improve classroom teaching
- Continue to provide technical assistance to schools identified as Title I Focus or Priority Schools. Part of the technical assistance provided for schools is a comprehensive school review by a team of outside education experts and the State Education Department. This team evaluates all areas of a school's operations and makes recommendations for improvement.

Parents are an integral part of ensuring the academic success of their children. Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and the district to support improvements:

- Learn more about NCLB requirements and Title I by accessing the NYSED website at www.emsc.nysed.gov and the US Department of Education at www.ed.gov.
- Talk with district staff about the District Comprehensive Improvement Plan to help students meet the state standards in language arts literacy and mathematics.
- Visit your child's school and volunteer.

You are encouraged to contact your School Principal for further information on any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in school improvement efforts. Helping children become academically proficient is everyone's responsibility. The Troy School District will continue to develop and implement its improvement plan to bring the district out of Focus District status. We look forward to working with parents and the community to help increase the academic achievement of our students.

Sincerely,

John Carmello, Superintendent