

WESTMONT HILLTOP SCHOOL DISTRICT

No Child Left Behind and Annual Notifications for Parents

Overview and Purpose

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2002 reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, marking one of the most significant federal education policy reforms in a generation. This act redefined the federal role in K-12 education with special emphasis on increasing achievement.

The law requires that all states establish a definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) that each district is expected to meet in order to have all students reach the proficiency level in reading and mathematics by the year 2014. Pennsylvania developed the Pennsylvania Accountability Plan in compliance with the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, as a way to measure school improvement and student achievement.

Pennsylvania determined that the target levels previously defined by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) will be used as the state's definition of proficiency with a starting goal of 45% of all students proficient in reading and 35% proficient for mathematics. Each year, schools are expected to show growth toward the goal of 100%, or all students scoring at the proficient or advanced levels. The acceptable percentage of children scoring at the advanced and proficient levels will increase until the year 2014, when the goal set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is 100% of students scoring at or above proficiency levels in mathematics and reading.

Districts are required to report the progress of a variety of subgroups defined as economically disadvantaged, major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency. Schools will be evaluated on achievement using the PSSA scores, the rate of participation in those tests, the graduation rate at the high school level, and the attendance rate at the elementary and middle school levels. Expectations apply not only to each school as a whole, but also to the performance of each subgroup as listed above, so it is quite possible that a school can fail to make adequate yearly progress if any one of the subgroups or indicators does not meet the yearly goal.

The law requires that school districts produce and publish a District Report Card and a School Report Card (for elementary, middle, and high schools in our district) that all parents, students, guardians, and taxpayers must receive. The Westmont Hilltop School District will publish the required notifications annually through mailings and newsletters. The School District Report Card will be published annually on our website and in our newsletters. The Report Card will be updated as soon as the data for each grade level is posted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, which is scheduled to occur this year in October. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has notified the district that public release of the AYP data for this year will be posted at www.paayp.com.

As mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act, the district will distribute a variety of other documents to provide notification to parents and students of their rights under the law. Enclosed in this Start-of-School packet are the documents required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the federal law entitled *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA):

- District Parental Involvement Policy Meeting Notification
- Notification of Parents' Rights to Inspect Records
- Parents' Right to Request Teacher Qualifications
- Notice of Education Programs for the Homeless
- Notice to Parents of Safe School Choice
- Notice of Privacy of Student Health Exams and Surveys as per the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment
- Notification of Rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
- Family Education Rights and Privacy Re: Directory Information

Also enclosed are the following annual notifications:

- Integrated Pest Management Notification
- Annual Asbestos Inspection Notification

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND PARENT NOTIFICATION LETTER

Parental Involvement Policy Meeting Notification

August 12, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires the Westmont Hilltop School District to develop and distribute to parents a written parent involvement policy that establishes the school district's expectations for parent involvement. We welcome and encourage you to become involved as an active partner in your child's education.

Specifically, schools must hold yearly meetings to which all parents of participating children must be invited and encouraged to attend. During these opportunities, parents will receive information about the school district's programs, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the kinds of tests the school district uses to measure student learning, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Our district will incorporate this information into a series of meetings by grade level beginning with the following opening of school activities:

Kindergarten: Parent Program and Orientation on Thursday, August 26—(1:00-3:00 PM)

Grade 1: Back to School Night, Tuesday, August 31—(6:00 PM)

Grade 2: Back to School Night, Wednesday, September 1—(6:00 PM)

Grades 3-4: Back to School Night, Tuesday, September 7—(6:00 PM)

Grade 5: Meet the Teacher and Orientation, Wednesday, August 25—(6:00 PM)

Grades 6-7-8: Meet the Teacher Night, Monday, September 27—(6:00-8:00 PM)

Grade 9: High School Parent Program and Orientation, Thursday, August 24—(7:00 PM)

You will be notified regarding grades K-6 parent-teacher conferences. Additional high school opportunities will be announced throughout the school year. Please complete the information at the bottom of this letter and return it to your building principal. We look forward to working in partnership with parents in the best interests of our students. Please return the forms to the office (or teacher) of the building where your child attends. If you have more than one child, a single form will be sufficient. THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

Susan Anderson, Superintendent

No Child Left Behind School Building Parental Involvement Response Form

Please check one of the boxes below:

- No*, I do not plan to attend the School Parental Involvement meeting.
- Yes*, I will attend the School Parental Involvement meeting.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

(Printed Name of Child or Children in the School)