



DISTRICT ONE SCHOOLS

SPARTANBURG COUNTY

P.O. Box 218 Campobello, SC 29322

Tel. 864-472-2846

www.spart1.org

August 26, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The mission of Spartanburg School District One is to provide a quality, student-centered education. In 2010-2011 this mission was met and we thank you for your efforts in helping us embrace our motto, "Student-Centered Education". From academics to athletics to the fine arts, our students excelled at the local, state, and national levels. Visual arts, choral, strings, and band programs once again garnered recognitions at each of these levels.

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires the South Carolina Department of Education (SDE) to review annually the performance of each school district in the state that receives Title I federal funds. The results of this review are reported on the district report card as the district's adequate yearly progress (AYP). Using student performance data and other indicators such as attendance or graduation from 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, a district is identified for district improvement if it does not make AYP for two or more consecutive years. The state absolute and improvement ratings (excellent, good, average, etc.) also found on the district report card are not related to NCLB and have no impact on a district being identified for district improvement under NCLB. These state ratings are part of the state's Education Accountability Act.

For the 2010-2011 school year, District One Schools, Spartanburg County, met the AYP goal for **all** students in ELA/Math but did not meet the AYP goal for ELA/Math disabled and has been identified for district improvement.

Once a district is identified for improvement, the district must make AYP for two years consecutively to no longer be identified for improvement.

According to the law, districts identified for district improvement, must:

- Consult with parents, school staff, and others when revising the school district's plan for improvement,
- Reserve at least 10 percent of its annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers, administrators, and other staff, and
- Continue to provide assistance to schools identified, if any, for school improvement.

There is no offer of school choice or supplemental services related to district improvement under NCLB. Only schools in school improvement are required to implement choice and supplemental services. All Spartanburg District One Title I schools met AYP for two consecutive years and therefore are not required to offer choice or supplemental educational services for 2011-2012.

As additional information, we would like to share our status with regard to carrying out responsibilities related to school improvement, school support and recognition, professional development, and parent involvement as required under Title I. In the spring of 2007 we were the first district in the upstate to receive District Accreditation for SACS/CASI. During the 2009-2010 school year, six schools received the Palmetto Gold Award and two received the Palmetto Silver Award. These schools were recognized for high levels of performance on PASS. One middle school received the Exemplary Reading Award for 2010-2011. Our media centers are all proficient or exemplary by SDE standards. We were ranked among the top two districts on PASS in the state for student achievement for 2010-2011.

In addition, the district:

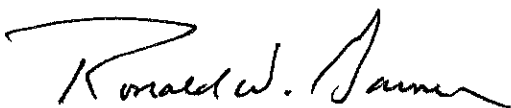
- Meets annually with a district needs assessment committee composed of administrators, teachers, parents and business leaders,
- Disaggregates and analyzes data results on all students including specific subgroups in need of improvement as well as providing workshops for all faculty members,
- Supports state initiatives such as South Carolina Reading Initiatives and the Math and Science Unit,
- Provides instructional coaches in the areas of math, science and ELA,
- Provides on-going staff development for teachers and administrators,
- Purchases materials that address best practices and on-going staff development initiatives, and
- Provides funding to support conference, workshop, and course attendance.

As part of our continued effort to improve the quality of our district, we invite you as a parent to participate in the district improvement process by providing the following assistance:

- Ensure that each student is prepared for class,
- Ensure that each student behaves appropriately at school,
- Ensure that each student completes homework daily and reads daily,
- Ensure that each student attends school regularly for the length of the entire school day,
- Contribute to the decision making process through involvement in the PTO council, School Improvement Council, and the 21st Century Advisement Council,
- Attend parent teacher conferences which are set by the school to maintain the yearly goal of 100% participation,
- Meet quarterly with teachers to review and develop academic assistance plans for students scoring not met and not performing on grade level academically, and
- Participate through the school's volunteer program as well as other school-wide activities.

For further information about any of the district improvement requirements or to find out how you can become involved in this effort, please contact Ann Greene, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Staff Development at (864) 472-2846.

Sincerely,



Ronald W. Garner, Ed.D.
Superintendent