

Greater Johnstown School District

School Improvement Chart
2009 - 2010 School Year

School Identified for Improvement: East Side Elementary School

Status: School Improvement I - School Choice

Grade Level	Building Enrollment	School Students May Transfer To	# Students Eligible for Choice	# Students Participating in Choice
K4 - 5	764	West Side Elementary	764	0

*Number of students eligible for choice should equal the building enrollment number

July 24, 2009

Dear East Side Elementary School Parent or Guardian,

We would like to make you aware of the choices and resources available to you based on the progress of our school under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind,(NCLB). East Side Elementary School is currently in School Improvement I because one of the sub groups did not make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) on the 2008-2009 PSSA. However a total of 19 of the 21 targets were met. To make AYP a school must meet the state performance goals of 63% proficiency on the PSSA Reading and 56% proficiency on the PSSA Math for the student body as a whole as well as each subgroup of students. A subgroup consists of 40 or more students in a school in the following categories: ethnicity, socio-economic status, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) - Special Education, and English Language Learner (ELL) status. The number of subgroups that a school has determines the number of "targets" that it must meet to make AYP. The subgroup of IEP students at East Side Elementary did not make AYP on the 2009 Reading and Math PSSA. Please refer to the attachment regarding school comparison data.

Explanation of school choice option

According to NCLB, East Side Elementary must offer students the choice to transfer to another school in the district not in School Improvement. Please know that the staff at East Side School has made great strides to ensure your child's academic success and are very proud of our students' accomplishments. However, since East Side Elementary is now in School Improvement I we are required to offer you an opportunity to transfer to West Side Elementary School.

If you would like to request that your child be transferred to West Side Elementary School, please complete the "Request for School Transfer" form enclosed for each child and return the form to Mr. Henry, principal of East Side Elementary School, located at 220 Messenger Street by August 14, 2009. The district will respond to your request by August 28, 2009. If the determination is made for your child to attend West Side Elementary transportation will be provided by the school district for as long as East Side Elementary School remains in School Improvement I.

How Parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement

Parent or guardian support is essential for your child's success at East Side Elementary School. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important.

The district-wide and building parent involvement policies have been updated for the 2009-2010 school year. A copy of the policies can be found in the Parent Handbook – Title I Supplement distributed to you by East Side Elementary School; additional copies can be obtained from your child's school. The information will soon be available on the district's website www.gjisd.net.

The many successes at East Side Elementary School cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. At East Side Elementary School we have initiated a school improvement plan for student performance that utilizes a data driven decision making model. Through our partnership with John Hopkins University teachers at East Side in grades three, four, and five will administer the quarterly 4-Sight Assessment test. This test of reading and math skills is aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and acts as a predictor of student performance on the PSSA. By using the diagnostic tool our teachers will be able to focus their instruction to meeting the educational needs of all our students at East Side Elementary School. We are also involved in the implementation of an inclusion model that will be used in conjunction with our Success for All Reading Program. Students will receive on-level program instruction with their peers who are performing at similar levels.

Our students are doing well, but there is always room for improvement; that is our challenge, our goal, and our commitment. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for every student.

Sincerely,

Douglas T. Henry
East Side Principal

EAST SIDE & WEST SIDE ELEMENTARY

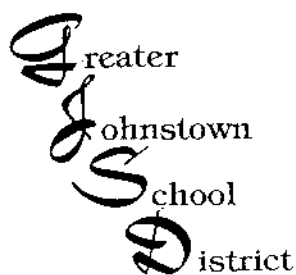
2008-09 PSSA Results

Comparison Data

	MATHEMATICS 56%			READING 63%		
	West Side	East Side	State Avg. 2007-08*	West Side	East Side	State Avg. 2007-08*
Students Overall	64.8%	64.1%	77.6%	54.8%	55.2%	69.6%
Target Met	Yes	Yes		Yes GM	Yes GM	
White	70.4%	66.7%	84.3%	63.5%	58.7%	76.3%
Target Met	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes N2/CI	
Black	56.3%	59.6%	55.3%	41.4%	51.5%	46%
Target Met	Yes	Yes		Yes GM	Yes SH/CI	
IEP	39.4%	22%	48.6%	33.3%	24.1%	35.3%
Target Met	Yes SH	No		Yes SH/CI	No	
Economically Disadvantaged	58.1%	61.4%	63.3%	47%	51.9%	52%
Target Met	Yes	Yes		Yes GM	Yes GM	

Legend:

Symbol	Definition
N2	Two years of data
SH	Safe Harbor
CI	Confidence Interval
GM	Growth Model
*	2008-09 testing data has not yet been finalized for all Pa. schools



East Side Elementary School

220 Messenger Street
Johnstown, PA 15902

~~220~~
Fax (814) 533-5548

Principal (814) 533-5550
Guidance (814) 533-5537
Nurse (814) 533-5587

August 18, 2009

Dear Mr./Mrs. _____

I reviewed your recent Request for School Transfer Form you returned to send your son/daughter to West Side Elementary for the 2009-10 school year. Due to the limited space at West Side Elementary, priority will be given to those students who went through the PSSA testing process last year at East Side Elementary and were in the subgroup that caused East Side Elementary to be in school improvement. Your request has been:

_____ Approved. All records have been transferred to West Side Elementary.

_____ Denied. Your request has been denied due to one or more of the following reasons:

_____ Your child has not yet taken the Reading or Math portion of the PSSA test;

_____ Your child took the Reading and Math PSSA tests at East Side Elementary and scored Proficient and/or Advanced in those categories;

_____ Your child is not in the specific subgroup that fell short of expectations. The defined subgroups this past year were: White, Black, Individual Educational Plan, and Economically Disadvantaged.

If you would like to appeal the decision, please contact the school at 533-5550 to set up a time and day to come in for a discussion with me.

Thank you.

Douglas T. Henry
Principal

Support, Grow and Succeed.