

August 6, 2010

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). I'm proud to announce that **East Side Elementary School made AYP(Adequate Yearly Progress) on the 2009-2010 PSSA test** and is currently in the category **Making Progress: in School Improvement I. 21 out of 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. Please refer to the attachment regarding school comparison data within the Greater Johnstown School District.

#### **Explanation of school choice option**

According to NCLB, East Side Elementary still must offer students the choice to transfer to another school in the district not currently in a form of School Improvement. Therefore, even though East Side made AYP this past year, the school's status of School Improvement I: Making Progress requires us to offer you an opportunity to transfer to our 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 20, 2010. The district will respond to your request by August 24, 2010. 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 a form of 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 television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making will directly contribute to your child's results.

The district-wide and building parent involvement policies have been updated for the 2010-2011 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.gjsd.net](http://www.gjsd.net).

At East Side Elementary School we will continue to utilize the school improvement plan for student performance. Teachers at East Side in grades three, four, and five will continue to administer the quarterly 4-Sight Assessment. 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 toward meeting the educational needs of all our students. 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 peers performing at similar levels.

Our students have shown progress this past year and we need to build on our achievements. That is our challenge, our goal, and our commitment. We encourage you to work with us to ensure the continued success for your child.

Sincerely,

Douglas t. Henry  
East Side Principal