

Greater Johnstown School District

School Improvement Chart
2008 - 2009 School Year

School Identified for Improvement: West Side Elementary School

Status: School Improvement I - School Choice (Making Progress)

Grade Level	Building Enrollment	School Students May Transfer To	# Students Eligible for Choice	# Students Participating in Choice
K4 - 5	793	East Side Elementary	793	0

West Side Elementary School

196 Westgate Drive

Johnstown, PA 15905

Telephone: 814-533-5540; Fax: 814-533-5592

Robert J. Beatty, Principal

Raymond A. Arcurio, Assistant Principal

October 10, 2008

Dear West Side Elementary School Parent or Guardian,

We are happy to inform you that West Side Elementary School is making progress according to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and made AYP on the 2007-2008 PSSA. Our overall reading scores increased from 54.7% to 61% and our overall math scores increased from 61% to 66.7%. This information is represented on the attached chart on page 2. West Side was placed in School Improvement I because one of the sub groups did not make AYP on the 2006-2007 PSSA. However, a total of 20 of the 21 targets were met.

Making progress in School Improvement I status requires West Side Elementary to (1) continue to follow our state approved improvement plan; (2) notify parents/guardians of West Side students that our school is Making Progress in School Improvement I; (3) review the Title I requirements for schools in School Improvement I and (4) offer parents of West Side Elementary students a choice to request a transfer of their child to a school that is not in School Improvement.

Please know that the staff at West Side School has made great strides to ensure your child's academic success and are very proud of our students' accomplishments. However, since West Side Elementary is still in School Improvement I although making AYP on the 2007-08 PSSA, we are required to offer you an opportunity to transfer to East Side Elementary School, which currently is in warning because they also had a sub group that did not make AYP on the 2007-2008 PSSA. However, they made 20 of their 21 targets on the 2007-2008 PSSA.

Transportation will be provided by the school district for as long as West Side Elementary School remains in Title I School Improvement. (West Side Elementary School must make AYP for two consecutive years to no longer be a School Improvement school.)

If you would like to request that your child be transferred to East Side Elementary School, please complete the "Request for School Transfer" form enclosed for each child and return the form to Robert Beatty, principal of West Side Elementary School, located at 196 Westgate Drive by October 24, 2008. The district will process the request and respond by November 21, 2008 in writing. If you do not complete this form and return it by October 24, 2008, we will assume that your child will remain at West Side Elementary School.

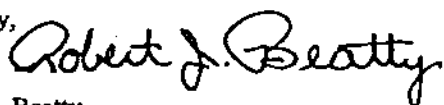
Parent or guardian support is essential for your child's success at West Side Elementary School. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating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

The district-wide and building parent involvement policies have been updated for the 2008-09 school year. A copy of the policies can be found in the Parent Handbook - Title I Supplement distributed to you by West 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.gisd.net. West Side Elementary School had its annual parent meeting to revise our school parent involvement policies and parent compacts and to review parent rights under Title I in May 2008.

The many successes at West Side Elementary School cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. At West 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 West 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 West Side Elementary School. We are also involved in the implementation of an inclusion model that will be used in conjunction with our SFA Reading program. Students will receive on-level reading 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,



Robert J. Beatty
West Side School Principal

of data. Proficiency targets may be met using Confidence Intervals, Safe Harbor, the Pennsylvania Performance Index (PPI), or through the Appeals process.

Read more about how the Confidence Interval (C.I.) and Pennsylvania Performance Index (PPI) are used in AYP decisions.

- Show last year's (2007) performance (✓)
- Show 2011 state targets (!)
- (The state targets for this year through 2010 will remain the same. The state targets will increase in 2011.)
- Show Safe Harbor* target (!) where applicable

Submit

West Side

Student Group	Reading		Math	
	Percent Proficient in Reading** 2008-2010	State Target	Percent Proficient in Math** 2008-2010	State Target
Students Overall	60.9%	63% 100%	66.7%	56% 100%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	64.9%	63% 100%	72.2%	56% 100%
Black	61.5%	63% 100%	61.5%	56% 100%
Latino/Hispanic				
Asian/Pacific Islander				
American Indian/Native Alaskan				
Multi-racial/ethnic				
IEP-Special Education	32.8%	63% 100%	31.3%	56% 100%
English Language Learners				
Economically Disadvantaged	54.7%	63% 100%	60.4%	56% 100%

NOTE 1: Bar may not reach target line, but may still meet AYP either with a confidence interval, by Safe Harbor, by the Pennsylvania Performance Index (PPI), or by Appeals.
 * The Safe Harbor (S.H.) target is met when there is at least a 10% reduction in percentage of students who

Greater Johnstown School District
Request for School Transfer Form
West Side Elementary School

2008-2009 School Year

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I, _____, request that my child
(Parent/Guardian Name – Please print)

named above be transferred to the East Side Elementary School.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

- Form must be completed by October 24, 2008 and returned to:

West Side Elementary School
Mr. Beatty
196 Westgate Drive
Johnstown, PA 15905