



PALMYRA BOARD OF EDUCATION
PALMYRA, N.J. 08065

David T. Lindenmuth
Superintendent of Schools

Administrative Office
301 Delaware Avenue
856-786-9300
FAX: 856-829-9638

William R. Blatchley
*Business Administrator/
Board Secretary*

Dear Parents:

We are dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. The *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey.

AYP is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP. The results are grouped into three grade spans – Elementary (grades 3, 4, &5), Middle (grades 6, 7, &8), and High School (grade 11). These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis every three years.

Schools that did not make AYP for one year (Year 1) receive an Early Warning designation to alert them that students did not meet at least one of the AYP indicators. If a school does not make AYP for *two or more* consecutive years in the same content area (language arts literacy and mathematics) it is identified as a school in need of improvement. Unfortunately, for the "Middle" grade span we did not make AYP for the second year and Palmyra High School is now identified as a school in need of improvement.

Because Palmyra High School is not a Title I school, there are no additional requirements other than parent and public notification. This letter serves as meeting the parent notification requirement. You can learn more by visiting the NJ Department of Education's website at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/>.

Our school is committed to addressing the issues that caused our school to miss AYP. Your support and input is welcome as we work to successfully achieve our student performance goals. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact your child's school principal to provide input and see how you can become involved in helping the school address its achievement issues. Some of the steps we have already taken or plan to implement this year include the following: an analysis of current programs and procedures, improvements to the basic skills program at Charles Street School, the infusion of technology into regular classroom instruction, and staff training on instructional strategies.

We want to continue serving your child, and we'll use all the resources available to help our students succeed. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. Building and maintaining a high-quality school, is a job for the entire community. As we work together as a team, we look forward to the opportunity of preparing our students for a successful future.

Signed,

David T. Lindenmuth

"Education Takes Teamwork"