

# CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Administrative Building*  
732 ROCKRIDGE ROAD  
PO BOX 861  
CONNELLSVILLE PA 15425-0861  
Phone 724-628-3300 Fax 724-628-9002

DR. TAMMY STERN  
*Director of Federal Programs/  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction K-12*

LISA HAMPE  
*Supervisor of Special Education*

EUGENE R. CUNNINGHAM  
*Business Manager*

KAREN L. MARKO  
*Director of Human Resources*

DR. DAVID R. GOODIN  
*Superintendent of Schools*

JAMES J. LEMBO  
*Director of Athletics &  
Transportation*

MICHAEL J. OMATICK, JR.  
*Director of Buildings & Grounds*

GLORIA J. CLAWSON  
*Director of Food Services*

MICHAEL A. PARLAK  
*Director of Security/Facilities Manager*

VICKI D. MCWILLIAMS  
*Secretary to Board of Education*

## **Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress, Public School Choice Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child**

August 09, 2010

Dear Dunbar Township Parent or Guardian,

We would like to make you aware of the choices and resources available to you based on the progress of your child's school under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). I am writing to let you know that Dunbar Township did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the fourth year in a row, based on 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results, and is in Corrective Action I.

### ***What are the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?***

The PSSA is an annual exam given to Pennsylvania students at various grade levels to measure their academic progress. The state uses the PSSA to determine whether Connellsville Area School District and each of our schools are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is determined by how successful districts and schools are in meeting state goals for attendance, graduation rates, test participation and academic progress.

To make AYP, a school must meet the state goals for the student body as a whole as well for each subgroup of students. A subgroup consists of 40 or more students in a school in the following categories: ethnicity, socio-economic status, Individual 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. For the prior 2009-10 school year, students at the Connellsville Area School District made remarkable progress in Reading and Mathematics proficiency on 16 of the 16 targets.

Dunbar Township met 94.1% of AYP targets in 2010. Below are highlights of reading and mathematics achievements:

#### **Reading**

- In Grade 3-5 the percentage of students scoring at proficient or advanced increased from 58.7% in 2009 to 62.2% in 2010.

#### **Mathematics**

- In Grade 3-5 the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced increased from 63.5% in 2009 to 71.6% in 2010.

Dunbar Borough met 100% of AYP targets in 2010. Below are highlights of reading and mathematics achievements:

**Reading**

- In Grade 3-5 the percentage of students scoring at proficient or advanced increased from 66.9% in 2009 to 69.3% in 2010.

**Mathematics**

- In Grade 3-5 the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced decreased from 76.8% in 2009 to 74.6% in 2010.

However, based on the performance of some subgroups, Dunbar Township has been identified in AYP STATUS by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Dunbar Township's PSSA results indicate that the school did not meet the state's academic achievement targets for the THIRD year in a row, based on 2009-10 PSSA results

<u>Reading</u>	<u>Proficient/Adv</u>	<u>State Target</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Proficient/Adv</u>	<u>State Target</u>
SUBGROUP	49.4%	63%	SUBGROUP	31.3%	56%

Please review the attachment for an explanation of school improvement and more information on how the Connellsville Area School District compares to other Pennsylvania schools.

**Action Plan for Improving Student Achievement**

As a result of an in depth needs assessment, Dunbar Township has identified the following areas as key strategies for instructional improvement:

- Alternative Method of Instruction in Reading & Math
- Additional Instruction Time
- Targeted Instructional Content
- Professional Development

As outlined in our school improvement plan, the school district and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be offering Dunbar Township assistance to implement these strategies.

**Explanation of School Choice Option**

According to NCLB, Dunbar Township must offer students the choice to transfer to another school in the district not in School Improvement. Please know that the staff at Dunbar Township has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. However, if you feel your child will be better served in another school in the district, you may request a transfer for your child to the following school: (1) Dunbar Borough. If you are the parent of an exceptional child or a child with limited English proficiency, please call Ms Lisa Hampe at 724-628-3300 ext. 314 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Educational records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

Choice options are limited based on geography, attendance zones, magnet schools and eligible school alternatives.

Transportation to one of these schools will be provided by the school district for as long as Dunbar Township remains in Title I School Improvement. (Dunbar Township must make AYP for two consecutive years to exit School Improvement.) If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be permitted to attend the choice school until he or she completes the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, however the district will not pay transportation costs once the school exits school improvement.

If you would like to request that your child be transferred to one of these other schools, please complete the "Request for School Transfer" form enclosed for each child and return the form to Dr. Tammy Stern, Director of Curriculum/Federal Programs at 732 Rockridge Road, PO Box 861, Connellsville, PA 15425 by August 13, 2010. The district will respond to your request by August 20, 2010 with written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Dunbar Township. If you do not complete this form and return it by August 13, 2010, we will assume that your child will remain at Dunbar Township.

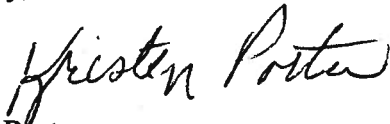
**How parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement**

Parent support is essential to the success of Dunbar Township. 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 parent involvement policy will be updated this fall. If you are interested in providing input for this policy, please call Dr. Tammy Stern at 724-628-3300 ext 307. In addition, Dunbar Township will have its annual meeting to revise our school parent involvement policy and parent compact and to review parent rights under Title I.

The many successes at Dunbar Township cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. We must admit, however, that if ALL of our students are not doing well, we are not as good as we can be. 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,



Kristen Porter  
PRINCIPAL

Enclosures: Additional NCLB Information  
Choice Selection Form

## **ADDITIONAL NCLB INFORMATION**

### **Explanation of School Improvement**

Any school that fails to meet state targets or Adequate yearly Progress (AYP) for one year is considered in Warning and is not identified for School Improvement. However, when the school fails to meet targets for two years in a row the school must be identified as a school in need of improvement and given the designation of School Improvement I. For each successive year that a school does not make AYP, the school advances to another level of school improvement. For example, a school that is in School Improvement I that fails to make AYP will be identified as School Improvement II. A school that fails to make AYP for the fourth year is listed in Corrective Action I and for the fifth year, Corrective Action II.

If a school makes AYP at any point after being identified in School Improvement, the school will not advance to the next level. The status is defined as Making Progress and still considered in School Improvement at the same level as the previous year. If the school makes AYP for the second consecutive year the building is no longer in school improvement. On the other hand if the school misses AYP after a year of Making Progress the school proceeds to the next designated level of School Improvement.

### **What are Supplemental Educational Services?**

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) are extra academic services available in schools identified for School Improvement II or Corrective Action. Free tutoring is offered after school or on Saturday to help eligible students to improve in reading, mathematics and science.

### **How Parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement**

Your support is not only essential to your child's success, but to the success of the school as well. Under NCLB, parents are to be involved in the school improvement process and to help write the school's School Plan. This is the plan to help raise the student achievement of all children in the school. Parents also have the right to help create or update the school's parent involvement policy and the home-school compact. You can contribute to your child's academic success by ensuring that your child attends school regularly, comes prepared to learn and completes all homework. Please plan to attend the Title I and Parent School Community Council meetings to obtain more information about school improvement activities and parent engagement opportunities at your child's school.



# CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Administrative Building*  
732 ROCKRIDGE ROAD  
PO BOX 861  
CONNELLSVILLE PA 15425-0861  
Phone 724-628-3300 Fax 724-628-9002

DR. TAMMY STERN  
*Director of Federal Programs/  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction K-12*

LISA HAMPE  
*Supervisor of Special Education*

EUGENE R. CUNNINGHAM  
*Business Manager*

KAREN L. MARKO  
*Director of Human Resources*

DR. DAVID R. GOODIN  
*Superintendent of Schools*

JAMES J. LEMBO  
*Director of Athletics &  
Transportation*

MICHAEL J. OMATICK, JR.  
*Director of Buildings & Grounds*

GLORIA J. CLAWSON  
*Director of Food Services*

MICHAEL A. PARLAK  
*Director of Security/Facilities Manager*

VICKI D. MCWILLIAMS  
*Secretary to Board of Education*

## **Notice of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child**

August 09, 2009

Dear Dunbar Township Parent or Guardian,

You received a notice that Dunbar Township did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the fourth year in a row, based on 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results and is in Corrective Action I. The notice outlined the groups and the areas that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress.

In addition to the services that were mentioned in the notice that are being provided at the school, your child(ren) qualify for Supplemental Educational Services (SES). SES is tutoring that is provided to your child(ren) by a Pennsylvania Department of Education approved provider. This service is provided outside of the regular school day and, depending on the provider, may be online through the internet, locally within the community, or directly in your home. The provider will develop a program that specifically addresses your child(ren)'s academic areas of need. The program is provided at no cost to you.

If you would like to receive these additional educational services under SES, you will need to do following:

1. Select an approved provider from the following list.
2. Contact a provider directly.
3. Discuss the provider's services and decide whether to work with that provider or contact another provider.
4. Arrange the details for the service to be provided directly with the provider from your final selection.

Once you have arranged services with a provider, the provider will contact the Connellsville Area School District to arrange for the payment for your child's program.

Following is a list of the approved providers and a brief description of the types of services they provide. A complete explanation of each provider including contact information is also included in the packet:

- **ATS Project Success** provides individual and distance learning tutoring.
- **Club Z In-Home Tutoring Services, Inc.** provides individual and small group tutoring.
- **Communities In Schools of Southwest PA Inc.** provides individual, small group, and distance learning tutoring.
- **Huntington Learning Center** provides individual and small group tutoring.
- **Sylvan Learning Center/Act It!** provides small group and distance learning tutoring.
- **The EdVenture Group** provides individual and small group tutoring.

We are pleased to offer this additional resource to you and your child(ren). If you have any questions or need help, please contact Dr. Tammy Stern, Director of Curriculum/Federal Programs at 724-628-3300, extension 1-306.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kristen Porter  
Principal

## Provider Details

**Provider Name** ATS Project Success  
**Contact Location** 20674 Hall Rd., Clinton Township, MI 48038  
**Contact Email** [info@ATSProjectSuccessWorks.com](mailto:info@ATSProjectSuccessWorks.com)  
**Contact Name** Melinda McNeill  
**Contact Phone** (800)913-0944  
**Contact Fax** (586)465-9481  
**Location of Services** ATS Project Success offers math and reading support services in the comfort and safety of the student's home by loaning each student a computer, the SuccessMaker web-based program, and an internet service.

**Provider Name** Club Z In-Home Tutoring Services, Inc.  
**Contact Location** 15310 Amberly Dr., Tampa, FL 33647  
**Contact Email** [ses@clubztutoring.com](mailto:ses@clubztutoring.com)  
**Contact Name** Todd Walden  
**Contact Phone** (800)434-2582  
**Contact Fax** (813)549-0185  
**Location of Services** Secure public locations close to student's homes.

**Provider Name** Education Futures Corp.  
**Contact Location** 3850 Woodhaven Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154  
**Contact Email** [info@educationfuturescorp.com](mailto:info@educationfuturescorp.com)  
**Contact Name** Kendra Roberts  
**Contact Phone** (800)339-2618  
**Contact Fax** (267)408-8369  
**Location of Services** Schools and other facilities such as churches, recreational centers, community centers, and community colleges within Pennsylvania.

**Provider Name** Huntington Learning Center  
**Contact Location** 496 Kinderkamack Rd., Oradell, NJ 07649  
**Contact Email** [juncoa@hlcmail.com](mailto:juncoa@hlcmail.com)  
**Contact Name** Peggy Holmes  
**Contact Phone** (800)692-8400-513  
**Contact Fax**  
**Location of Services** Bethlehem, PA, Greensburg, PA  
Monroeville, PA, Pittsburgh, PA  
Mechanicsburg, PA, Lancaster, PA  
Philadelphia, PA, Newton Square, PA  
Springfield, PA, McMurray, PA, King of Prussia, PA

**Provider Name** Sylvan Learning Center/Ace It!  
**Contact Location** 1397 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, PA 15904  
**Contact Email** [sylvan@floodcity.net](mailto:sylvan@floodcity.net)  
**Contact Name** Curtis Costlow  
**Contact Phone** (814)262-9665  
**Contact Fax** (814)2629576  
**Location of Services** In the Sylvan program, services will be Provided within a Sylvan Learning Center. In the Ace It! program, services are offered at the students' school.

**Provider Name** Club Z In-Home Tutoring Services, Inc.  
**Contact Location** 15310 Amberly Dr., Tampa, FL 33647  
**Contact Email** [ses@clubztutoring.com](mailto:ses@clubztutoring.com)  
**Contact Name** Todd Walden  
**Contact Phone** (800)434-2582  
**Contact Fax** (813)549-0185  
**Location of Services** Secure public locations close to student's homes.

**Provider Name** The Learning Lamp  
**Contact Location** Johnstown, PA 15904  
**Contact Email** [jheck@thelearninglamp.org](mailto:jheck@thelearninglamp.org)  
**Location of Services** Tutoring is conducted at schools, libraries, and community centers within the school districts where SES eligible students are served.

**Contact Name** Jennifer Heck  
**Contact Phone** (814)262-0732  
**Contact Fax** (814)262-0837