

CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

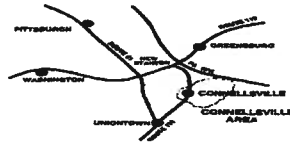
Administrative Building
732 ROCKRIDGE ROAD
PO BOX 861
CONNELLSVILLE PA 15425-0861
Phone 724-628-3300 Fax 724-628-9002

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 West 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 Junior High West did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the fifth year in a row, based on 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results, and is in Corrective Action II.

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.

West met 88% of AYP targets in 2010. Below are highlights of reading and mathematics achievements:

Reading

- In Grade 7-9 the percentage of students scoring at proficient or advanced increased from 67% in 2009 to 69.2% in 2010.

Mathematics

- In Grade 7-9 the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced decreased from 59.3% in 2009 to 54.5% in 2010.

However, based on the performance of some subgroups, West has been identified in AYP STATUS by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). West's PSSA results indicate that the school did not meet the

state's academic achievement targets for the fifth 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	17.7%	63%	SUBGROUP	19.4%	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, West has identified the following areas as key strategies for instructional improvement:

- Alternative Method of Instruction in Reading
- 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 Junior High West assistance to implement these strategies.

Explanation of School Choice Option

Please know that the staff at West has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through 9th grade. No Child Left Behind regulations state that a school must provide school choice if there is another comparable school within the district that is not in School Improvement. Since Junior High East is also in School Improvement, the district will be unable to offer school choice.

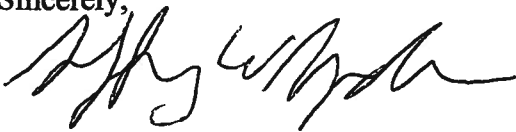
How parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement

Parent support is essential to the success of West. 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, West 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 West 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,



Geoffrey Snyder
PRINCIPAL

Enclosures: Additional NCLB Information

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.

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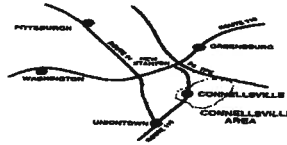
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Notice of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child

August 09, 2009

Dear Junior High West Parent or Guardian,

You received a notice that Junior High West did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the fifth year in a row, based on 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results and is in Corrective Action II. 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.

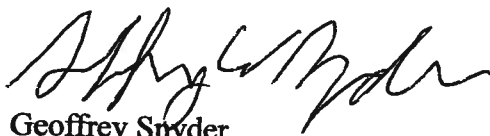
Once you have arranged services with a provider, the provider will contact the Connellsville Area School District to arrange for the payment for your child's program.

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 enclosed:

- **ATS Project Success** provides individual and distance learning tutoring.
- **Club Z In-Home Tutoring Services, Inc.** provides individual and small group tutoring.
- **Education Futures Corp.** provides small group tutoring.
- **Huntington Learning Center** provides individual and small group tutoring.
- **Sylvan Learning Center/Ace It!** provides individual and small group tutoring.
- **The Learning Lamp** 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 Federal Programs/Technology Services at 724-628-3300, extension 1-307.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Snyder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Geoffrey" being more prominent than the last name "Snyder".

Geoffrey Snyder
Principal

Enclosure: Providers Details

Provider Details

Provider Name	ATS Project Success	Contact Name	Melinda McNeill
Contact Location	20674 Hall Rd., Clinton Township, MI 48038	Contact Phone	(800)913-0944
Contact Email	info@ATSPROjectSuccessWorks.com	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 Name	Todd Walden
Contact Location	15310 Amberly Dr., Tampa, FL 33647	Contact Phone	(800)434-2582
Contact Email	ses@clubztutoring.com	Contact Fax	(813)549-0185
Location of Services	Secure public locations close to student's homes.		
Provider Name	Education Futures Corp.	Contact Name	Kendra Roberts
Contact Location	3850 Woodhaven Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154	Contact Phone	(800)339-2618
Contact Email	info@educationfuturescorp.com	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 Name	Peggy Holmes
Contact Location	496 Kinderkamack Rd., Oradell, NJ 07649	Contact Phone	(800)692-8400-513
Contact Email	juncoa@hlcmail.com	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 Name	Curtis Costlow
Contact Location	1397 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, PA 15904	Contact Phone	(814)262-9665
Contact Email	sylvan@floodcity.net	Contact Fax	(814)262-9576
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 Name	Todd Walden
Contact Location	15310 Amberly Dr., Tampa, FL 33647	Contact Phone	(800)434-2582
Contact Email	ses@clubztutoring.com	Contact Fax	(813)549-0185
Location of Services	Secure public locations close to student's homes.		
Provider Name	The Learning Lamp	Contact Name	Jennifer Heck
Contact Location	Johnstown, PA 15904	Contact Phone	(814)262-0732
Contact Email	jheck@thelearninglamp.org	Contact Fax	(814)262-0837
Location of Services	Tutoring is conducted at schools, libraries, and community centers within the school districts where SES eligible students are served.		