

BOUND BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

LaMonte Building . West Second Street . Bound Brook, NJ 08805 . tel: 732-652-7920. fax: 732-271-9097

Bound Brook High School Smalley Middle School Lafayette LaMonte/LaMonte Annex

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

September 23, 2011

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) requires that Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey.

AYP for is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 3-8 (Assessment of Skills and Knowledge) and grade 11 (High School Proficiency Assessment). Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and a secondary indicator (drop-out rate for high schools and attendance rate for elementary and middle schools) to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis until 2014 when all students are expected to reach academic proficiency.

Schools that do 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 a school in need of improvement and certain sanctions must be applied.

In 2011-12, Bound Brook Elementary Smalley Middle Cluster was designated as A School in Need of Improvement as a result of scores on the spring 2011 NJASK Assessment. The school met 36 of 40 indicators; however it did not meet AYP indicators for Language Arts Literacy in Total Population nor in the sub-groups: Students with Disabilities, Hispanic or Economically Disadvantaged.

As a result, Smalley's Status for 2011-12 is "Year 2 School in Need of Improvement".

The district must still provide parents of eligible students at Smalley the opportunity to receive Supplemental Educational Services. A letter to the parents of eligible students will be mailed shortly.

☐ Year 2 – Supplemental Educational Services: Our district is unable to provide the choice option; supplemental educational services (SES) is available to income-eligible students.

All schools in need of improvement that receive federal Title I funds must assemble a school improvement committee to develop a school improvement plan that identifies areas of need and programs and activities to help increase student achievement. All schools must involve parents and the community for input as the Title I Unified Plan is developed. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact your child's school principal to provide input to the school improvement plan and see how you can become involved in helping the school address its achievement issues.

Some of the steps we have already taken and will continue to implement this year to address the problem(s) that placed your child's school in improvement status include the following:

- ✚ *In collaboration with Middle Earth, provide students who scored Partially Proficient or are at risk of scoring Partially Proficient with academic support in Math and/or Language Arts Literacy*
- ✚ *Provide Professional Development to Teachers in instructional strategies to:*
 - *Assist English Language Learners in Mainstream classes*
 - *Using Smart Board Technology to improve instruction*
 - *Using Study Island to assist students in mastery*
 - *Using Formative assessments to drive instruction (Learnia)*
 - *Initiate Lucy Calkins Writers Workshop*
 - *Using DRA 2 to assess student Reading*
 - *Best practices in Language Arts Literacy in Middle level education*
- ✚ *Purchase site licenses for students to use Study Island tutorial program, Brainpop and Tumblebooks to assist students in Math and Language Arts Literacy*

The state is also active in helping the school and district achieve its academic goals by sponsoring trainings and guidance.

We want to continue serving your child, and we will use all the resources available to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. The district and each school must develop and implement a parental involvement policy. We encourage you to become involved in this and other initiatives at your child's school by contacting Mr. Edward Gordon. Maintaining a high-quality school is a job for the entire community.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Edward C. Hoffman