



Keansburg Public Schools

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September 4th, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardians,

The new school year brings with it some changes to the Title I Program for Keansburg. Recently, the State of NJ applied for an Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver from the regulations of the current No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Program. This means that we are no longer reliant on the designations of Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) to determine our ranking throughout the state and the country.

The biggest effect that this will have on our district is that we will no longer be required to offer the Supplemental Educational Services (SES) program for the district. While some of those participating in the SES tutoring programs saw academic gains, the participation rates were so low that it was not cost effective to continue with the program. The funds that were originally used to advertise, promote and run this program will now be redirected to helping more children within the district.

All schools that were granted the ESEA Flexibility Waiver will now be designated as Priority, Focus or Reward schools. However, the majority of NJ school will not fall under any of these categories. Those schools will continue to operate with a more flexible use of funds to determine how best to serve their populations.

Joseph R. Bolger Middle School has been designated as one of the four Focus schools in Monmouth County. The other schools within our district have not received designations. Focus school designations indicate that there is a large achievement gap between our highest and lowest performing student groups. The school will be required to meet with the State's Regional Achievement Center (RAC) to develop interventions and supports to improve student achievement.

Once these meetings are completed, implementation of the 8 federal turnaround principals will be required within the school. The principals are: *school climate and culture*, school leadership, *standards aligned curriculum, assessment and intervention system*, instruction, *use of time*, use of date, *staffing practices*, family and community engagement. We have been aware for some time that our district might fall into a Focus School designation, and we have already begun implementing changes in these areas.

We are confident that we are heading in the right direction to close the achievement gaps present at the Bolger School and look forward to sharing more information with our parents and community members at our Annual Title IA Services Meeting. This meeting will take place in the Joseph R. Bolger Middle School Professional Development Suite (Room 515) on **Monday, September 14th at 9:00 AM**. If you have further questions, or would like more information please join us. We look forward to seeing you there!

Believe, Understand, and Realize Goals