

September 2016

## **What NCLB Means to Parents/ Guardians**

- Parents or guardians receive an annual informational letter from the Superintendent about NCLB each fall.
- If your child's teacher does not meet the Federal definition of "highly qualified," you will receive written notification.
- The Superintendent makes an annual report to the Board of Education and public each October regarding the District's progress in student achievement.
- Starting in Grade 3, parents or guardians receive annual reports on individual student progress and performance on standardized tests.
- An annual report card for each school is provided by the state. Information can be obtained by visiting [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us).
- Regional Achievement Centers (RAC) are state assistance teams created to support Focus Schools. They work collaboratively with school-based goals teams to reflect on eight turn-around principles.

## **District Administration**

**Gary P. McCartney, Ed.D.**  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

**Ms. Joanne Kerekes**  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

**Mr. Thaddeus Thompson**  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**Mrs. Kimberly Maloy-White**  
Director of Human Resources

**Mr. Raphael Morales**  
Director of Student Services

**Mrs. Suzanne Luck-Born**  
Director of Assessment & Instructional Support

**Mrs. Amanda Rosenberg**  
Director of Professional Development

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# **Leaving No Child Behind in South Brunswick:**

*A Parent's Guide to Understanding the Federal Law of NCLB and the February 2012 Waiver*



*District Mission Statement: The South Brunswick School District will prepare students to be lifelong learners, critical thinkers, effective communicators and wise decision makers. This will be accomplished through the use of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and/or the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) at all grade levels. The schools will maintain an environment that promotes intellectual challenge, creativity, social and emotional growth and the healthy physical development of each student.*

*The mission of South Brunswick School District has always been to ensure that no child is left behind. This initiative is evident in the District's goals for academic achievement.*

*The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation puts into law South Brunswick's ongoing belief system.*

*What follows is an informational piece that breaks down the NCLB Act into understandable terms for those unfamiliar with the provisions of the law.*

## About the Law

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act was signed into law by former President George W. Bush in January 2002. The law, which will remain in effect for 6 years, is a revamped version of the Elementary and Secondary School Act of 1965 and the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994. In February 2012, New Jersey received a waiver regarding the law. The law links federal funding with new student achievement.

In order to continue receiving federal funds, participating states, including New Jersey, must increase proficiency standards over time until all public school students are 100% proficient in literacy and math by 2014. Proficiency standards are also being established for science.

New federal standard include teacher qualifications and safe school initiatives as well as student attendance and achievement.

The NCLB Act has raised the bar for all schools by measuring success not just as a whole, but also in parts.

Proficiency levels are now measured by the total student population as well as in subgroups such as special education, race and ethnicity, economically disadvantaged and limited English-speaking students.

## Key Definitions

The following are important definitions and terms used when discussing NCLB:



**Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)** – A state-wide standard that all subgroups are expected to obtain. The standard is applied to two State assessment tests: NJ ASK-grades 3 to 8 and HSPA-grade 11.

**Benchmarks** – Goals established by the state to measure whether schools/districts are making AYP.

**Focus School** - Label given to 10% of New Jersey Schools. There are three ways that schools receive this identification. If a high school graduation rate is less than 75%, a school has a lowest performing subgroup, or the discrepancy of subgroup performance.



**Highly Qualified Teacher** – The law's initiative where every child is entitled to be taught by a highly qualified teacher in his/her grade level and/or content area.

**Safe School** – Every child is entitled to attend a school that is violence-free.

**Reward School** – Label given to a school with highest performing subgroups or high progress, which is the growth and rate of progress.

## District Steps

The District looks to enhance the performance of all its students and welcomes the challenges presented by NCLB because focus on subgroups is long overdue.

In the District, work to improve student achievement in all areas began long before the NCLB Act was signed into law.

The District continually evaluates its curriculum and instructional methods in an effort to enhance the academic achievement for all its students.

District Administration attends regular State-wide informational meetings. Presentations for administrative teams and staff are provided during the year.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) consisting of administrators and staff are present at every level. PLC members analyze student data and study related researched- based best practices for instruction.



Each school sets math, language arts and safe school goals annually in the fall. The goals are reviewed regularly throughout the course of the school year.

Various academies and enrichment programs are run throughout the school year and summer months to assist students in need.

Student support teams are accessible in each building to assist staff in teaching students who are struggling academically.

