



Dear Parents:

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Education Director

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Trustees:
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David Learn
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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 is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state’s academic proficiency benchmarks (see below), as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance, to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis every three years.

Subject	2011 AYP Benchmarks	
	Elementary (Grades 3-5)	Middle (Grades 6-8)
Language Arts Literacy	79%	86%
Mathematics	83%	80%

AYP is calculated for the total school population and for subgroups with students who have been enrolled in the school for the full academic year. The subgroups are as follows:

- Total Population
- Students with Disabilities
- Limited English Proficient
- Economically Disadvantaged
- White
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Native American
- Other
- African-American
- Hispanic

NCLB allows for a “safe harbor” provision so that schools are not penalized for a particular student group’s performance being below the goal, providing sufficient progress is made. For example, if the student group improved its performance by decreasing the number of students not proficient by at least 10 percent over the previous year, the student group would make AYP by qualifying for the safe harbor provision.

Schools that do not make AYP for one year 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 designated a “school in need of improvement.”

Advisory Board:
Carla Haynes-Siglam
Rick Pressler
Randall Solomon



Based on the AYP data, Greater Brunswick Charter School has been identified as a School In Need of Improvement for not meeting AYP benchmarks in the following areas:

Grade Span	Subject	Previous Status	Current AYP	YR
Middle	Language	Year 1	No	Year 2
Middle	Math	Year 3	No	Year 4

To view how our schools' compare academically in language arts literacy and mathematics to other schools in our district and the state, please visit the State of Education's website at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/>.

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. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact the Education Directors to provide input to the school improvement plan. Some of the steps we have already taken or plan to implement this year to address the problem(s) that GBCS in School in improvement status include the following:

- Established an NCLB School Improvement Committee to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment
- Implementation of an improvement plan targeting priority areas in need of improvement, using test cluster data to drive instruction
- Provide scientifically-based research studies and instructional strategies to teachers
- Continue to provide explicit, differentiated instruction based on data
- Provide academic support through existing and new programs
- Continued implementation of the Workshop Model in Reading, Writing, and Math.
- Provide small group instruction based on student needs and data
- Implementation of a Dual Language Program in K-1
- Implementation of an extended day program and an extended year program

In addition, Title I schools in need of improvement must implement certain interventions. For each consecutive year these schools do not make AYP, additional interventions must be applied. We have

The requirements for Year 2, which is our status in Middle School Language Arts are as follows:

Year 2 – In Need of Improvement/School Choice: A school that does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area is designated as a “school in need of improvement.” Certain interventions apply, including intradistrict school choice (or SES), parental notification, and development of a school improvement plan for Title I schools (incorporated into the Title I Unified Plan).

In Middle School Mathematics GBCS is in Year 4 and those requirements are summarized below:



Year 4 – Corrective Action: A school that does not make AYP for four consecutive years in the same content area is identified as a school in corrective action. The Title I school must continue to offer intradistrict school choice and SES, notify parents of the school’s status, revises its school improvement plan (Title I Unified Plan), and receive technical assistance from the district and the state.

The state offers school support by engaging a team of experienced professionals to conduct an extensive school review called Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA). The CAPA team interviews stakeholders and staff, reviews school and district documents, and conducts on-site observations to develop a report that contains recommendations for school improvement, which then becomes part of the Title I Unified Plan.

If you want additional information about these requirements, you may access the details at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/title1/accountability/ayp/0607/info.shtml>. Please feel free to call Donna Medea at 732-448-1052 with any questions that you may have.

This year we did make AYP in the elementary grades and have seen substantial increases in scores in those grades. We believe that this is due to a serious and united effort by our school community and we expect scores to increase again in the coming year. Our goal is to make AYP in all categories.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Donna A. Medea
Asst. Education Director