



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District:

Federal Law requires the Delaware Department of Education to annually identify all public school districts that are "Under District Improvement." A district that does not meet the AYP target in the same content area or other academic indicator for two years in a row is classified as Under District Improvement. In order to remove itself from Under District Improvement status, a district must meet AYP targets in all areas for two consecutive years. District Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) is decided by the performance of students in English/language arts and mathematics through the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS) and high school graduation rates. AYP must look at student achievement on the DCAS for each of the groups listed below:

- All students;
- Students who are economically disadvantaged;
- Students in major racial and ethnic groups (African-American, Caucasian, Hispanic, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander);
- Students with disabilities; and
- Students with limited English proficiency.

Based on 2010-2011 DCAS data, the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District **did meet all AYP targets for all student groups that year**. This means that although the district is still classified as Under District Improvement, their status is frozen at the current level. **The New Castle County Vocational Technical School District can remove itself completely from district improvement by meeting all targets for the 2011-2012 school year.**

As a parent/guardian, you can play an important role in helping your district improve. It starts with reading the Success Plan and becoming involved with the district and schools. Serving on school or district committees and/or volunteering at your child's school are examples of ways you might become involved in helping your district improve. The following resources will provide you with the information you need to support local improvement efforts:

- Delaware Parent Information Center www.picofdel.org or (302) 999-7394
- Delaware Parent Leadership Institute www.rodelfoundationde.org or (302) 504-5241
- Parent Information Resource Center of Delaware www.depirc.org or (302) 999-7394
- Information about Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and parent supports for student achievement can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>

Families can also help by supporting learning at home. For example you can:

- Make sure your child has quiet time and a place to read and study.
- Make sure homework is done.
- Talk to your child's teacher regularly about your child's progress.
- Talk to your school's principal about ways parents can help the school.
- Take advantage of parent training opportunities and resources on how to promote reading and math.

Should you have any questions regarding this notice or need more information, please contact the New Castle County Vocational Technical district office at www.nccvotech.com or 302-995-8000. Thank you for your interest in your child's education and your support of Delaware's public schools.

Sincerely,

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education