



NEW CASTLE COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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President
Board of Education

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August 2011

Dear Delcastle Parent/Guardian,

Federal law requires that the school district inform parents about the educational options that occur due to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

The highest priority for the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District is to provide a safe environment where academic and career/technical achievement improves for all students. Delcastle Technical High School was placed under school improvement because its reading scores did not meet state targets in 2009-2010 school year. Delcastle responded by providing increased professional development for its teachers in order to embed reading content into all courses. Additionally, the school continues to provide courses for struggling readers: READ180 and Peer-Assisted Literacy Strategies (PALS). The school district assisted Delcastle by supplying the school with a team of Instructional Coaches, who assisted targeted students to master skills in math and reading classes.

Under federal law, a school that is "under improvement" must meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2 consecutive years in order to be removed from being "under improvement". The consequence for being under improvement is that students who attend that school have the option of selecting another school to attend within the district that is meeting its academic targets. *Please understand though, that in preliminary accountability rating results from the DE Department of Education, Delcastle was rated SUPERIOR in academic progress for the 2010-2011 school year.* However, because Delcastle has not meet AYP for 2 consecutive years, it is classified as in "Corrective Action, freeze status" and therefore is still required to offer School Choice for 2011-2012.

For your information, the percent of high schools in Delaware that did not meet AYP in 2010-2011 is 39%. Preliminary Accountability rating for NCCVT School District shows that all schools in the district rated SUPERIOR in the 2010-2011 school year. Howard and Delcastle are both in "freeze status" for the 2011-2012 school year.

As a parent of a child who attends Delcastle, you have options for your child in the coming school year. As you continue to read, please pay careful attention to the deadline dates and contact information provided.

Under ESEA, Delcastle must offer public school choice to all parents of students enrolled in the school. Also, the school must offer free tutoring services to students receiving free or reduced-price lunch (more information is included in this mailing about the free tutoring service.)

As a parent, your options follow:

1. **Remain at Delcastle.** For this option, there is nothing more to do. Delcastle is an innovative and rigorous school that has high expectations for all students. For this school year, Delcastle will continue to offer courses that personalize learning and help students develop necessary skills. Collaboration among teachers and administration will continue to occur to ensure that our students' needs are being met. In addition, Delcastle will introduce an "advisory" period twice a month to ensure that students remain on track and are succeeding. This time will be devoted to monitoring student progress and developing students' strengths. We look forward to another productive school year. Delcastle is proud of its preliminary rating of SUPERIOR in the 2010-2011 academic year and is looking to build upon this success.

2. **Select School Choice.** For this option, you may choose to have your son or daughter be transported during the school day for his/her academic classes to another school in the district that is not under school improvement (St. Georges and Hodgson) and then be transported back to Delcastle for vocational classes. Transportation would be provided. Vocational classes are full at St. Georges and Hodgson and safety regulations do not allow the district to add students to classes already at capacity. If you select this School Choice option, Delcastle would be your child's 'home school' for athletics and activities.

As a comparison, School Choice was provided to parents of all Delcastle students in the previous three years, yet no parents selected this option.

3. **Remain at Delcastle and Receive Free Tutoring Services.** Free tutoring is available only for students who are enrolled to receive free or reduced-priced lunch. For those students who wish to receive free tutoring, please see the information that is included in this mailing.

If you select, option #2, School Choice, you are directed to **contact David Jezyk, Supervisor of Title 1 Programs by September 9th**, in order to complete the transition as soon as possible. He can be reached at (302)683-3760 or david.jezyk@nccvt.k12.de.us.

Considering that you already have selected Delcastle for your child, it may seem strange that you now are provided an option to select 'School Choice'. Despite Delcastle receiving a preliminary accountability rating of SUPERIOR, please understand that the option of 'School Choice' is a requirement of federal law, with which we are required to comply.

In conclusion, should you have any questions regarding the information presented in this letter, please contact David Jezyk.
Sincerely,

Victoria C. Gehrt, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Joseph Jones, Ed. D.
Principal of Delcastle

Cc: David Jezyk, Ed. D., Supervisor of Title 1

Si desea su correspondencia en español, por favor llame al 995-8036.