

To: Parent or Guardian
From: Steven H. Godowsky, NCC Vo-Tech School District Superintendent
Evelyn Edney, Howard High School of Technology Principal
Re: Educational Options/Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Requirements
Date: August 10, 2010

The highest priority for the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District is to improve student achievement. Our district is currently engaged in special efforts to improve student performance at Howard High School of Technology. A School Improvement Plan, developed in 2009-2010, focuses on providing instructional coaching support and new technology programs in the areas of Mathematics and English /Language Arts. These are the content areas needing improvement, as identified by the Delaware Student Testing Program. ***Howard has been rated as “under improvement” by the Delaware Department of Education and is thereby required to offer educational options that include Supplemental Educational Services and school Choice for students. Your child’s options for the coming school year are to: Remain at Howard; Choose to take academic courses only at Hodgson or St. Georges; Remain at Howard and, if eligible, receive free tutoring services.***

• **Free Tutoring/Supplemental Educational Services (Available for Students Who Receive Free & Reduced Lunch)**

Under ESEA legislation, students who receive Free & Reduced Lunch are eligible to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES) in the areas of math, reading and language arts. You may choose a tutoring program that you feel is best for your child.

A list of approved Supplemental Educational providers is available from the Delaware Department of Education School Improvement website <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/si/TitleIPartA/SupplementalEducationServices/SESVendorList10.shtml>. All of the programs listed have been approved by the Delaware Department of Education and will provide your child with tutoring that is coordinated with the curriculum taught at Howard. When deciding which tutoring program would be best for your child, families should consider (visit <http://www.tutorsforkids.org/families/infoforfamilies.asp> for additional guidance):

- When and where will the tutoring take place (at school, home, a community center)?
- How often and for how many hours in total will your child be tutored?
- What programs, by grade levels and subject areas, are available for your child?
- What type of instruction will the tutor use (small group, one-on-one, or computer)?
- What are the tutors' qualifications?
- How will your child's progress be shared with you?
- Can the tutor help if your child has disabilities or is learning English?
- Is transportation available to and from where the tutoring will take place?

If you choose this option, please contact the office of Howard Assistant Principal Shanta Reynolds at 302-571-5420, by September 15, 2010, for more information to complete your registration for SES services.

• School Choice

Based on the ESEA legislation, Howard is required to offer public school Choice. For the 2010-2011 school year, you may choose to have your child remain at Howard full time, or you may choose to have your child take academic courses only during the school day at one of the school district's high schools not currently classified under improvement (Hodgson or St. Georges – see back for information on these schools). Transportation would be provided. This Choice option is offered for academic core courses only (math, English, science, social studies) because career programs at Hodgson and St. Georges are at full capacity. The career and technical courses, and all other related and required courses will be provided at Howard. Howard will remain the home school for your child, including all extra-curricular activities and athletic programs. If you select to participate in this Choice option, you must contact the New Castle County Vo-Tech School District Division of Instruction at 302-683-3760, by September 15 for details. David Jezyk, Ed.D., Supervisor of Title I Programs, will provide information on scheduling and transportation plans.

If you choose this option, please contact the office of District Supervisor of Title I Programs David Jezyk, Ed.D., at 302-683-3760, by September 15, 2010, to complete your registration.

While not part of the ESEA Choice option, as parents you may instead choose to return your son/daughter to your local school district high school prior to September 30th.

• Remain at Howard

Staff members at Howard have a relationship with your child and want to continue serving your child through 12th grade. **If you want your child to remain at Howard, you do not need to take any additional action.** We have described in the cover letter those initiatives Howard is implementing to improve instruction and student achievement.

If you have a question about the school choice option, please contact Dr. Jezyk. We are looking forward to a year of educational success and continuous improvement for all of our students. Thank you for choosing the NCC Vo-Tech School District for your son/daughter's high school education.

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