



NEW CASTLE COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1417 NEWPORT ROAD, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19804

(302) 995-8000

JOHN F. LYNCH, JR.
President
Board of Education

VICTORIA C. GEHRT, Ed.D.
Superintendent

ROBERT H. STRONG
Vice President
Board of Education

August 2011

Dear Howard 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. Howard High School of Technology, collaborating with the Delaware Department of Education (DOE), engaged in the Partnership Zone's Transformational Model of School Improvement at the beginning of last school year because Howard did not meet academic targets in reading or math for the previous 5 years. Preliminary accountability ratings of the 2010-2011 school year from the DE Department of Education show that Howard met all student accountability measures and is now rated SUPERIOR. Howard is on the right path!

For your information, 39% of high schools in Delaware did not meet AYP in 2010-2011. Preliminary Accountability ratings for NCCVT School District show that all schools in the district rated SUPERIOR in the 10-11 school year. Howard and Delcastle are both classified as in "Corrective Action, freeze status" for the 2011-2012 school year.

As a parent of a child who attends Howard, 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, Howard 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 letter about the free tutoring service.)

As a parent, your options follow:

1. **Remain at Howard.** For this option, there is nothing more to do. Many changes have occurred at Howard due to the Partnership Zone. Emphasis has been placed on high academic rigor, meaningful alignment of curriculum and state standards, provision of individual tutoring after school when needed, and close monitoring of teaching and learning by the administrators. For next year, students in 9th and 10th grades will all be part of a small learning community where learning is personalized and teachers share a common planning period in order for all of your child's teachers to meet together on a daily basis. Students with special needs will have special educators collaboratively teach in each class. As stated above, these changes are showing growth in reading and math for all student groups in DCAS testing grades: 9th and 10th grades. Vice President Biden and Secretary of Education Duncan selected Howard to visit this spring because of its early success under the Partnership Zone plan.
2. **School Choice.** For this option, you may choose to have your son or daughter be transported during the school day to another school in the district that is not under school improvement (St. Georges and Hodgson) for his/her academic classes and then be transported back to Howard for vocational class. 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 an already full vocational class. If you select school choice, Howard would be your child's 'home school' for athletics and activities.

3. **Remain at Howard 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 asked 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 selected Howard for your child, it may seem strange that you now are provided an option to select 'School Choice'. Despite Howard 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

Tim Capone
Principal of Howard

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

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