

November 2009

Dear Hodgson Parent/Guardian:

Recently you received a letter from the Department of Education (DOE) indicating that the NCCVT School District did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined through the State's Accountability System and, consequently, is considered "Under Improvement." Making AYP is determined by specific student groups having met certain targets on the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP). My purpose in writing to you is to share important school and district information so you have a better understanding of what AYP means relative to your son or daughter's education at Hodgson.

Hodgson, a school of 1,041 students, made AYP last year, meeting all student group targets, and is rated as "commendable" by the DOE. A review of the school's DSTP scores following last spring's testing shows that the school significantly exceeded the statewide DSTP scores for meeting standards in reading, mathematics, science, and writing (see attached school profile report). The DSTP social studies assessment given in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade indicate that Hodgson's students performed at the State average for meeting that standard.

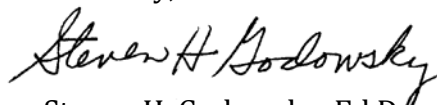
Overall, our district high schools also performed well compared to other New Castle County and Delaware high schools. Delcastle Technical High School is "under improvement;" however, Delcastle made AYP last year and exceeds the State average in reading, mathematics, and writing. Howard High School of Technology did not meet AYP last year and is rated as "under improvement;" however, they did meet AYP the year before and test scores do show improvement over previous results, especially for low performing students. In 2007-08, St. Georges was rated as "superior." Last year, St. Georges missed AYP in one student group (mathematics).

Hodgson's administration and faculty are working diligently with the school district to offer high quality instructional programs and services. These programs and services support student achievement for all students, with special focus on those individuals who score below State proficiency levels. Such initiatives include, but are not limited to, enhanced 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade literacy and problem-solving strategies, increased use of instructional technology, doubling-up of math courses at 9<sup>th</sup> grade, free after-school and Saturday tutoring, and additional learning coach specialists.

As a school district, we accept full responsibility for educating all students and should be held accountable for their success. Our record in academic, career, and school climate speaks for itself; however, it was important for us to share that record with you, our parents, who have chosen our schools for your children.

Should you have any questions regarding the State accountability rating system and the school district's efforts, contact me at 995-8051. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Steven H. Godowsky, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**HODGSON VO-TECH HIGH SCHOOL**  
 2575 Glasgow Avenue, Newark, DE 19702  
 Principal: Annemarie Linden

phone:(302) 834-0990

**Total High School Enrollment (9/30/2009)** 1046

**2009 Accountability Status**

Rating	Commendable
Under Improvement Status	Not Under Improvement
Adequate Yearly Progress	Meets Target
State Progress Determination	Meets Target

8 of 8 NCLB student subgroups met the target

**Comparison to District and State Results:**

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>STATE</b>
Hodgson	NCCVT	Delaware

**2009 Delaware Student Testing Program**

**% students meeting the state standard**

GRADE 10 MATH	72%	58%	56%
GRADE 10 READING	80%	71%	71%
GRADE 10 WRITING	94%	89%	84%
GRADE 11 SCIENCE	67%	62%	60%
GRADE 11 SOCIAL STUDIES	46%	44%	46%

**2008-2009 School Year**

**Average Daily Percent Attendance**

GRADES 9-12	95%	95%	92%
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**Discipline Measures**

school crime rate (per 9-12 enrollment)	0.006	0.006	0.016
DOE offense rate (per 9-12 enrollment)	0.032	0.034	0.066
suspension rate (per 9-12 enrollment)	0.078	0.157	0.905
% students suspended (grades 9-12)	6%	11%	25%

**Cooperative Employment**

% seniors employed in related co-op	57%	61%	NA
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