

Hopatcong Borough Schools
Hopatcong Middle School
Mr. Lewis Benfatti, Principal

Dear Parents:

We are dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. The *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey.

AYP is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis every three years.

Schools that did not make AYP for one year (Year 1) receive an Early Warning designation to alert them that students did not meet at least one of the AYP indicators. If a school does not make AYP for *two or more* consecutive years in the same content area (language arts literacy and mathematics) it is identified as a school in need of improvement.

The status of the following school has changed. The Hopatcong Middle School is classified as a School in Need of Improvement for the 2011-2012 school year. The Middle School is in YEAR 3 for language arts literacy and YEAR 4 HOLD in mathematics after making AYP in the 2010-2011 school year. The school must make AYP in language arts literacy and mathematics for two (2) consecutive years to be removed as a School in Need of Improvement. During the 2010-2011 school year students in the low socio-economic sub group and the Hispanic sub group failed to make AYP in language arts literacy. For schools that are now in improvement status, their academic achievement in language arts literacy and mathematics can be compared to other schools in the state by referencing the NCLB State Report found at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/>.

Because the Hopatcong Middle School is not a Title I school, there are no additional requirements other than parent and public notification. This letter serves as meeting the parent notification requirement. Posting or linking to the AYP Status Reports and the NCLB Report meets the public notification requirements.

Our school is committed to addressing the issues that caused our school to miss AYP. Your support and input is welcome as we work to successfully achieve our student performance goals. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact your child's school principal to provide input and see how you can become involved in helping the school address its achievement issues.

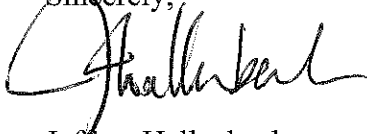
Some of the steps we have already taken or plan to implement this year to address the problem(s) that placed your child's school in improvement status include the following:

1. Increased tracking of student educational assessments to provide appropriate interventions during the school day, including supplemental academic skills instruction.
2. Intensive in-class assistance from classroom teachers targeting individual student weakness.

We want to continue serving your child, and we'll use all the resources available to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. We want you to become involved at your child's school by contacting Mr. Lewis Benfatti at the Hopatcong Middle School. Building and maintaining a high-quality school, is a job for the entire community.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hallenbeck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jeffrey Hallenbeck
Title I Program Director