

August 2, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We would like to make you aware of the choices and resources available to you based on the progress of Park Elementary under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Since the data for the 2010 PSSA assessments has not been formally released to any of the school districts in Pennsylvania, we have included the 2009 data below. The 2010 data will be available on the Columbia Borough School District website ([www.columbia.k12.pa.us](http://www.columbia.k12.pa.us)) when it is released to the school district.

***What are the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?***

The PSSA is an annual exam given to Pennsylvania students at various grade levels to measure their academic progress. The state uses the PSSA to determine whether Columbia Borough School District and each of our schools are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is determined by how successful districts and schools are in meeting state goals for attendance, graduation rates, test participation and academic progress.

Park Elementary did not make Adequate Yearly Progress on the 2009 Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results in reading and math. Schools must meet the state proficiency levels currently set at 63% in reading and 56% in math. As a result of not meeting these proficiency levels, Park Elementary is in School Improvement II.

Park Elementary School's Assessment results indicate that all subgroups met the state's proficiency level in math and reading. However, the special education subgroup did not meet the state's academic achievement targets in math and reading:

IEP subgroup: Math – 38%  
Reading – 14.5%

In our district, Taylor Elementary did make AYP on the 2009 PSSA. Taylor Elementary does not have enough students to have the IEP subgroup. The Columbia Jr./Sr. High School is in Corrective Action II because the IEP and economically disadvantaged subgroups did not meet the proficiency levels in math and reading.

**Action Plan for Improving Student Achievement**

As a result of an in-depth needs assessment, Park Elementary has identified the following areas as key strategies for instructional improvement for the 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 school year:

- Professional Development will focus on content literacy and classroom management.
- Implement an RTII intervention period for Reading that includes all students.
- Implement the SRA Reading program with learning support students.
- Implement a professional learning community by grade level that meets weekly after school.
- Reading and writing strategies will be incorporated across all content areas.
- Professional Development in-services will focus on reading comprehension and class management strategies.
- Professional Development for Co-teaching will focus on classes with inclusion.
- Professional Development will be provided on the Saxon Math program

We will be revisiting the School Improvement Plan to help us achieve AYP on the 2011 Assessments held in March. We need your help in updating this plan. If you would like to serve with the team that will be updating this plan, please contact me at Park Elementary School.

As outlined in our school improvement plan, the school district and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be offering Park Elementary assistance to implement these strategies by continuing the Educational Assistance Program, EAP, which is a tutoring grant.

Please know that the staff and administration at Park Elementary will work diligently to improve our scores. We have developed a relationship with your child and a partnership with you in making your child successful. However, if you feel that your child will be better served at Taylor Elementary School, you may request a transfer for your child.

If you would like to request that your child be transferred, please complete the **“Request for School Transfer” form enclosed for each child and return the form to Park Elementary School by August 13, 2010.** The district will respond to your request by August 23, 2010 with written notice regarding your child’s school assignment. You will then have the opportunity to let us know if you wish the transfer to take place or want your child to remain at Park Elementary. **If you do not complete this form and return it by August 13, 2010, we will assume that your child will remain at Park Elementary.** If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be permitted to attend Taylor Elementary until he or she completes sixth grade.

**How parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement**

Parent support is essential to the success of your child at Park Elementary School. Communicating with your child’s teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework and attending school events and meetings are important.

The school’s parent involvement policy and parent compact will be updated this fall. If you are interested in providing input into this policy, please contact me at Park Elementary. If you wish to serve on the district-wide Title I Parent Involvement Committee, please let me know.

The many successes at Park Elementary cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. Our successes include: made AYP from 2002-2007, 72.2% of the students made AYP in math during the 2008-2009 school year, 52% of the students made AYP in reading during 2008-2009, the Latino/Hispanic subgroup and economically disadvantaged subgroup made progress on the PSSA from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009 school year, was a PAGE 1 school from 2004-2007 and in 2005-2006, won the Title I Academic Achievement Award.

Please continue to support Park Elementary and to work with us as we achieve success for every student.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Wallace  
Principal

# Request for School Transfer Form 2010-2011

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Student's Name (Please Print)

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Grade

Check the box that applies:

I want my child transferred to Taylor Elementary as it is described in No Child Left Behind

I want my child to remain at Park Elementary School.

This form must be returned to Park Elementary School by August 13, 2010.

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Date

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Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

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Daytime Phone Number

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Evening Phone Number