

**Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress, Public School Choice
Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child**

July 25, 2011

Dear Cambridge Springs Elementary School Parent or Guardian,

We would like to make you aware of the choices and resources available to you based on the progress of your child's school under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

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 PENNCREST 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.

To make AYP, a school must meet the state goals for the student body as a whole as well for each subgroup of students. A subgroup consists of 40 or more students in a school in the following categories: ethnicity, socio-economic status, Individual Education Plan (IEP) – Special Education, and English Language Learner (ELL) status. The number of subgroups that a school has determines the number of “targets” that it must meet to make AYP. For the prior 2010-11 school year, students at the PENNCREST School District made remarkable progress in Reading and Mathematics proficiency on 16 of the 18 targets.

Cambridge Springs Elementary School met 100% of AYP targets in 2011. Below are highlights of reading and mathematics achievements:

Reading

- In Grades 3-6 the percentage of students scoring at proficient or advanced increased from 66.2% in 2010 to 70.6% in 2011.

Mathematics

- In Grades 3-6 the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced increased from 73% in 2010 to 74.2% in 2011.

In **2009-2010** Cambridge Springs Elementary's PSSA results indicated the following groups of students did not meet the state's academic achievement targets:

Reading:

The percentage of student with IEP's scoring at proficient or advanced was 17% while the state target was 63%

The 2010-2011 results show that all subgroups made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Cambridge Springs Elementary is now in its second year of a two-year School Improvement plan due to not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results. I am pleased to announce that the 2010-2011 assessment results indicate that Cambridge Springs Elementary is making progress.

Please review the attachment for an explanation of school improvement and more information on how the PENNCREST School District compares to other Pennsylvania schools.

Action Plan for Improving Student Achievement

As a result of an in depth needs assessment, Cambridge Springs Elementary School has identified the following areas as key strategies for instructional improvement:

- Administer diagnostic assessments that identify specific educational needs
- Provide direct instruction in skills/strategies, meeting students' individual needs
- Provide continuous progress monitoring

As outlined in our school improvement plan, the school district and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be offering Cambridge Springs Elementary School assistance to implement these strategies throughout the year.

Explanation of School Choice Option

According to NCLB, Cambridge Springs Elementary School must offer students the choice to transfer to another school in the district not in School Improvement. Please know that the staff at Cambridge Springs Elementary School has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through 6th grade. However, if you feel your child will be better served in another school in the district, you may request a transfer for your child to one of the following schools: (1) Maplewood Elementary School or (2) Saegertown Elementary School. If you are the parent of an exceptional child or a child with limited English proficiency, please call Brenda Kantz at 337-1615 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Educational records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

Transportation to one of these schools will be provided by the school district for as long as Cambridge Springs Elementary School remains in Title I School Improvement. (Cambridge Springs Elementary School must make AYP for two consecutive years to exit School Improvement.) If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be permitted to attend the choice school until he or she completes the 6th grade, however the district will not pay transportation costs once the school exits school improvement.

If you would like to request that your child be transferred to one of these other schools, please complete the "Request for School Transfer" form enclosed for each child and return the form to Cambridge Springs Elementary School, 130 Steele Street, Cambridge Springs, PA by August 31, 2011. The district will respond to your request by September 9, 2011 with written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Cambridge Springs Elementary School. If you do not complete this form and return it by August 31, 2011, we will assume that your child will remain at Cambridge Springs Elementary School.

How parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement

Parent support is essential to the success of Cambridge Springs Elementary School. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important.

The district-wide parent involvement policy will be updated this fall. If you are interested in providing input for this policy, please call Brenda Kantz at 337-1615. In addition, Cambridge Springs Elementary School will have its annual meeting to revise our school parent involvement policy and parent compact and to review parent rights under Title I. In the Spring of 2011, Cambridge Springs Elementary held a Title I Parent

Meeting where the school-parent involvement policy and the parent compact were updated. We encourage you to become involved in our Parent Advisory Committee. If you are interest in participating, please call Brenda Kantz, Coordinator of Federal Programs and Assessment at (814) 337-1615. In addition, information about parent rights under Title I will be provided during the building's scheduled Open House, September 12, 2011, and during the annual Title I Parent Conference that will be held at the Meadville Days Inn on November 2, 2011 beginning at 8:00 AM.

The many successes at Cambridge Springs Elementary School cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support.

We must admit, however, that if ALL of our students are not doing well, we are not as good as we can be. That is our challenge, our goal and our commitment. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for every student.

Sincerely,

Patti Fiely
PRINCIPAL

Enclosures: Choice Selection Form

