

June 29, 2009

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

We apologize for the length of this letter but its information is very important and detailed. This letter is intended to provide information concerning the options available to your child under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Notification of “Needs Improvement” Status

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that parents/guardians of children attending “Needs Improvement” schools be notified annually of their school’s academic achievement. Although Banneker High School is doing well overall, they have been included on a list of schools in Georgia identified as not making Adequate Yearly Progress. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is one of the cornerstones of the NCLB Act. It is a measure of year-to-year student achievement on statewide tests.

Schools that do not meet AYP in the same subject for two or more consecutive years are identified for school improvement and must offer “Public School Choice.” Public School Choice allows students enrolled in a school that is in Year 1 or more of “Needs Improvement” status to enroll in a school not designated as “Needs Improvement.” Schools remain in Needs Improvement status until they make AYP for two consecutive years.

Public School Choice

Banneker High School is identified as a “Needs Improvement Year 2 School” under NCLB. As a result, the school is developing a plan for improvement that will focus on the academic achievement of all students, and in accordance with NCLB, the plan will specifically address the reason why the school is identified as Needs Improvement.

As a Needs Improvement Year 2 School, Banneker also must offer “Public School Choice.” This means you may choose for your child to remain at that school or to transfer to one of the below schools. These are offered based on a variety of factors, including AYP status, location and transportation options:

- **Langston Hughes High School (7510 Hall Road, Fairburn)**
- **Westlake High School (2400 Union Road S.W., Atlanta)**

In addition, the school system is obligated to provide or pay for transportation to the choice school if the student is transferring from a Title I school. Banneker High School is now a Title I school and Fulton County Schools will provide bus transportation based upon our district’s guidelines. If bus transportation is not chosen, the school district will reimburse, at the federal travel reimbursement rate, parents for driving their child to school. The reimbursement will include transportation to and from school for drop-off and pick-up.

Transportation or parent travel reimbursements will be provided until 1) Banneker makes AYP for two consecutive years, at which time the school will be removed from Needs Improvement status and Public School Choice obligations; or 2) Banneker High School no longer qualifies for Title I status. **At that time, if you choose to continue sending your child to the transfer school you will be responsible for transportation and cost reimbursement will not apply.**

If you choose to take advantage of Public School Choice to the transfer school and request a transfer for your child, more information will be mailed in early August.

Supplemental Educational Services

The option to transfer to another public school is available to all students enrolled in Title I schools that are identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Supplemental Educational Services (SES) – or free tutoring – are available to all students from lower-income families who are enrolled in Title I schools in a second year of school improvement. **If you choose not to transfer your student, then he or she may receive Supplemental Educational Services, with priority given to students from lower-income families.**

Making a Decision

Deciding whether to transfer to another school is an important decision and we want you to make the best, most informed decision possible. Please know that Banneker High School is doing well overall. Before you make a decision, consider the improvement strategies and special programs at this school as well as its positive achievements. Please also become more familiar with any school you may be considering for a transfer. You are welcome to visit that school and speak with its staff, as well as contact other parents. We have included 2008-09 test scores for Banneker High School as well as the transfer schools to give you a background on academic achievement.

Next Steps

If you want your child to remain at Banneker High School, then no action is necessary. However, parents or guardians who desire to apply for a transfer must complete a request for transfer application. The request for transfer application must be **received** (not postmarked) by mail or hand-delivery to the Fulton County School System's Office of Student Placement on or before **July 15, 2009**. You may also fax the application to 404-669-4948 on or before **July 15, 2009**. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee that all students will be assigned their first choice school.

Please complete the attached form and return it to the Office of Student Assignment. Again, no action is necessary if your child will remain at Banneker High School.

Fulton County School System
Office of Student Assignment
786 Cleveland Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30315

We want to continue serving your child and will use all the resources available to the Fulton County School System to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that as a parent you will participate in developing Banneker High School's school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you are interested in additional information regarding the Public School Choice provisions of NCLB, and/or have questions, please contact the Office of Student Assignment at 404-763-6801.

Sincerely,



Linda Anderson
Deputy Superintendent Instruction