



**Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress
Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child**

DATE August, 2011

Dear HOPE Charter School Parents or Guardians,

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).

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 HOPE Charter School 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- 2011 school year, students at the HOPE Charter School did not make adequate progress in Reading and Mathematics.

HOPE Charter School met the participation and graduation rates in the 2010- 2011 school year. However, based on the performance, HOPE Charter School has been identified in Corrective Action II by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). HOPE Charter's PSSA results indicate that the school did not meet the state's academic achievement targets for the Fourth year in a row, based on **2010- 2011** PSSA results.

<u>Reading</u>	<u>Proficient/Adv</u>	<u>State Target</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Proficient/Adv</u>	<u>State Target</u>
	10.1%	72%		2.2%	67%

Action Plan for Improving Student Achievement

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

- Aligning the current curriculum to the Keystone Modules
- Creating a scope and sequence for each core subject area that correlates with the state standards and Common Core Standards
- Continue to implement a Response to Intervention approach to create systematic intervention
- Revise the lesson plan format to promote more teacher accountability
- Lengthen classroom periods from 45 minutes to 66 minutes
- Implement research-based curricula for struggling students
- Increase the amount of professional development required during the school year



HOPE Charter School has implemented a Response to Instruction and Intervention approach in order to adequately address the needs of our students systematically. Every student is evaluated using the GMADE and GRADE Diagnostic Assessments in order to establish an overall grade level for our students and to make sure they are making progress from year to year. We have also implemented the 4-Sight Benchmark Assessment in order provide our teachers with an ongoing assessment measure to guide instruction and identify the level of interventions needed. In order to meet the needs of our lower performing students, HOPE Charter will continue to offer Enrichment classes along with Pre- Algebra and Math for Consumers. Students that are receiving special education services will be provided with Intensive classes designed to work on basic concepts and the mastery of previous concepts. HOPE Charter School is in the process of revamping its curriculum to meet the requirements of the Keystone Assessments and also aligning the curriculum with Common Core Standards.

Explanation of School Choice Option

According to NCLB, HOPE Charter School must offer students the choice to transfer to another school in the district not in School Improvement; however, HOPE Charter School does not have another school building available to offer the choice to transfer. HOPE Charter School will offer Supplemental Education Tutoring Services that will be provided at no cost to the parent and on a first come first served basis. The details of this service will be outlined in a separate formal letter that will be mailed during the month of August.

How parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement

Parent support is essential to the success of HOPE Charter 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 William Jeffreys at 267-336-2730 Ext. 5552. In addition, HOPE Charter School will have its annual meeting to revise our school parent involvement policy and parent compact and to review parent rights under Title I. This meeting is currently scheduled for September 27, 2011 at 5:00 pm at HOPE Charter School. HOPE Charter School will also offer various other parent involvement opportunities through its Partners in HOPE meetings, Parent Advisory Meetings, and parent workshops held throughout the school year. The dates and times of these events will be listed on the HOPE Charter School website.

The many successes at HOPE Charter School cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. HOPE Charter School has steadily improved its graduation rate (92%) over the past three years along with improving the amount of students that attend a post secondary institution. We have also increased the amount of highly qualified teachers that are currently employed at HOPE Charter School from 41% in 2008-2009 school year to 92% in the 2010- 2011 school year. Finally, HOPE Charter School provides a safe and nurturing environment that allows students to mature socially and emotionally.

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,

Eric Worley
Principal of HOPE Charter School