

August , 2012

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to let you know that Mahanoy Area High School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on **2011-2012** Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results.

To make AYP, a school must meet the state goals for the student body as a whole as well as 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).

Mahanoy Area High School's PSSA results indicate the following groups of students did not meet the state's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmarks:

- The AYP benchmark for math for the 2011-2012 school year was 78%. Subgroup populations not meeting the 78% math proficiency rate include:
 - Grade 11 – special education (IEP) 0% proficient
 - Grade 11 – White non-Hispanic 28.8% proficient
 - Grade 11 – economically disadvantaged (ED) 24.4% proficient
 - Grade 11 Math – 28.2% proficient

- The AYP benchmark for reading for the 2011-2012 school year was 81%. Subgroup populations not meeting the 81% reading proficiency rate include:
 - Grade 11 – special education(IEP) 0% proficient
 - Grade 11 – economically disadvantaged (ED) 48.8% proficient
 - Grade 11 – White non-Hispanic 52.5% proficient
 - Grade 11 Reading – 49.4% proficient

- The AYP benchmark for graduation for the 2011-2012 school year was 85%
 - Mahanoy Area High School graduation rate 77.01%

Mahanoy Area High School is continuing its effort to implement an ongoing plan for school improvement in meeting the proficiency rates for our populations. We will accomplish this responsibility through the following strategies:

- Create a school improvement plan based on the 2011-2012 PSSA testing results.
- Continue to evaluate benchmark testing in accordance with newly developed Keystone State Examinations in the fields of Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.
- Continue to develop a district wide curriculum aligning our teaching practices with the newly developed common core standards.
- Create a district wide and school wide data team to analyze group and individual scores to improve student deficiencies in specific content areas.
- Communicate with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and educational consultants to insure substantial gains toward improvements.
- Continue to promote our free mentoring program and strongly encourage students and parents to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Continue to analyze gaps and lapses in instruction through district wide departmental meetings.
- Incorporate remedial classes in the areas of Math, English, and Science.

- Incorporate a peer tutoring program to increase content knowledge and test taking skills.
- Analyze Vocational Technical School schedule to increase efficiency of preparation of Keystone Exams.
- Increase in positive public relations for student achievement and behaviors.
- Use literacy to build a bridge between school and community.
- Updates to our attendance policy with focus on dropout rates.
- Continually improving our blended schools programming for students to earn on-line credit.
- Establishing a School to Work program.
- Developing a Guidance Team to intervene and counsel students that are opting to drop out of school.

According to No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Title I schools that are identified for school improvement are required to offer parents of children attending the school the option to transfer to any other public school **within the school district** that is NOT identified for school improvement. School districts are not required to offer public school choice options outside of the district.

Parent support is essential to the success of our school. Communicating with your child's teachers; making sure your child attends school regularly; helping your child with homework; monitoring your child's television, computer, and electronic game time; volunteering in the programs; and participating in school decision-making are important. We will make every effort to continually improve our parent/student/teacher interaction. Actions that the Mahanoy Area School District follows to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan are

- Parent-Teacher Conferences conducted after first marking period
- Meet the Teacher
- Informational Seminars by Guidance Counselor
- Interactive School Website
- Title 1 Breakfast
- Connect-Ed messages
- Interactive Schoolbook
- Conference Calling
- Email access to teachers and administrators
- Public presentations

We are determined to provide *all* students with a program of instruction that meets state standards of proficiency. This is our challenge, our goal, and our commitment. Please continue to work with us in achieving success for every student.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Smith
High School Principal