

# LOWER CAPE MAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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687 ROUTE 9, CAPE MAY, NJ 08204-4697



TEL: (609) 884-3475

FAX: (609) 884-7067

**JACK J. PFIZENMAYER**

*Superintendent*

September 6, 2011

Dear Parents:

We are dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. The *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey.

AYP is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis every three years.

Schools that did not make AYP for one year (Year 1) receive an Early Warning designation to alert them that students did not meet at least one of the AYP indicators. If a school does not make AYP for *two or more* consecutive years in the same content area (language arts literacy and mathematics) it is identified as a school in need of improvement.

Student performance is near the state average in Language Arts and slightly below average in Mathematics. Moreover, the performance of Juniors on the HSPA is consistently above those in other districts with the same socio-economic status and district factor designation. Unfortunately student performance has not improved at a rate sufficient to prevent the need for us to notify you that the Lower Cape May Regional High School has been defined as "in need of improvement Year 2". Specifically, AYP Benchmark increases resulted in each of our subgroups falling below the cutoff scores. (Please refer to the attached AYP Fact sheet) You may also see at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/nclb09/reports/09/2820/09-2820-050.html> how Lower Cape May Regional students perform relative to the State Average.

Because Lower Cape May Regional High School is not a Title I school, there are no additional requirements other than parent and public notification. This letter serves as meeting the parent notification requirement. Posting or linking to the AYP Status Reports and the NCLB Report meets the public notification requirements.

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Some of the steps we have already taken this year to address the problem that placed your child's school in improvement status include providing a college preparatory curriculum for all, an advisement program, peer tutoring, a multitude of after school help programs, working with teachers to analyze student performance data and planning instruction, and closely monitoring and responding to individual student performance.

We acknowledge the need to raise academic standards and expectations for all students and continue to work with you and your student so they may become active, productive, responsible citizens. We want your involvement and encourage you to participate in Principal Joseph Castellucci's Parent Advisory. Please also attend parent conferences, monitor your student's progress through PowerSchool, and attend school functions and events. Building and maintaining a high-quality school, is a job for the entire community.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack J. Pfizenmayer", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Chief School Administrator