

ATTENTION!
Districts in Need of Improvement
Preliminary Designation 2007-2008

August 13, 2007

To: Ms. Aisha Thomas-Johnson, Lead Person
Village Charter School

From: Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Subject: Districts in Need of Improvement

The federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) has mandated extensive education requirements as part of a single accountability system that measures schools and districts for academic achievement and identifies schools and districts for improvement status. Schools and districts identified for improvement that receive Title I funds must comply with a complex set of sanctions defined by the United States Department of Education (USDE).

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is required to follow the NCLB regulations and identify *districts in need of improvement* (DINI). This designation is based on the 2007 preliminary adequate yearly progress (AYP) calculations determined for your schools and posted on the NJDOE web site at www.nj.gov/njded/title1/accountability.

A preliminary review of districtwide AYP calculations indicates that your district is designated a “district in need of improvement.” The profile for your district is attached.

To allow your district time to study the AYP data, notify staff and parents of the designation, and prepare your response to the press in case of inquiries, the NJDOE will release the list of districts in need of improvement to the press in about 30 days. The attached *Addendum* provides more detailed information about the criterion used to identify districts. It also summarizes actions for DINI districts to take.

The provisions of *NCLB* are intricate and complex. We appreciate your continued dedication to meeting the requirements of this federal legislation. If you need any additional information about NCLB or Title I, or assistance in complying with the provisions for designated districts, please contact the Office of Program Planning and Accountability/Specialized Populations via the helpline at titleone@doe.state.nj.us.

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Attachments

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