



# SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOLS

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*Over 150 Years of Excellence in Education*

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September 2009

**To:** Parents/Guardians of Students in Schenectady City Schools  
**From:** Eric Ely, Superintendent  
**Subject:** District In Need of Improvement for English-Language Arts

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001 requires all states to create their own high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do for all grades in English-Language Arts and Mathematics. Each school must improve each year until all students meet these standards. This yearly improvement in school performance is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). NCLB also requires the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to annually review the performance of each district that receives funds under Title I. The NYSED is required to inform parents/guardians of students about district performance. For the 2009-10 school year, Schenectady City Schools has been identified as a District in Need of Improvement, year 5 for English-Language Arts. The status of all New York State Title I schools is reviewed each year.

### As a District in Need of Improvement, our district must:

- Consult with parents and school staff when developing the District Improvement Plan. This plan explains how the district will use Title I and other funds to improve Title I schools;
- Reserve at least ten percent of their annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers and administrators; and
- Continue to provide technical assistance to schools identified as Title I Schools in Need of Improvement and/or Title I Corrective Action Schools.

### How can parents help their District improve?

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and district to support improvements:

- ❖ Learn more about the new NCLB requirements. Become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following websites:  
[www.emsc.nysed.gov](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov) – The NYS Education Department  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) and [www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/hyc.html](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/hyc.html) – The US Department of Education
- ❖ Talk with district staff about their District Improvement Plan to help students in meeting the State standards in reading and mathematics.
- ❖ If you are a parent of an eligible student who attends a low-performing Title I school, ask about Supplemental Educational Services that may be available for your child. Supplemental Educational Services are extra academic services provided to eligible Title I students outside of the regular school day.
- ❖ If you are a parent of an eligible student who attends a low-performing Title I school, ask about School Choice options to transfer your child to another better performing public school in the district.
- ❖ Visit your child's school and volunteer.

You are encouraged to contact the school district's Federal and State Programs office at 518-881-3405 for further information on any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in school improvement efforts.

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