17 August 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing this letter to inform you that Darby Township School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on the 2010-2011 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). As a result of this testing, Darby Township School has been labeled as “made AYP” for the 2011-2012 school year.

Any school that fails to meet state targets or Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for one year is considered in Warning and is not identified for School Improvement. However, when the school fails to meet targets for two years in a row, the school must be identified as a school in need of improvement and given the designation of School Improvement I. For each successive year that a school does not make AYP, the school advances to another level of school improvement. For example, a school that is in School Improvement I that fails to make AYP will be identified as School Improvement II.

Darby Township’s PSSA results indicate all targets were met. Darby Township students showed overall proficiency of 53% in Reading and 66% in Mathematics. The statewide averages were 71% in Reading and 73% in Mathematics. Darby Township continues to work towards proficiency for all students. Four of five Southeast Delco schools made Adequate Yearly Progress as determined by the Pennsylvania System of State Assessment criteria.

As a result of school improvement planning, Darby Township School has identified the following as key components of their school improvement strategy for the 2011-2012 school year:

- Implementing RtII philosophy for all students
- Providing targeted professional development for teaching staff
- Incorporating strategic, skill-based interventions in all grades
- Revising the district’s evaluation process for professional staff

Southeast Delco School District and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be offering Darby Township School assistance to implement these key components.

Parents or guardians of students in schools receiving Title I funds and classified in Corrective Action II are entitled to school choice as outlined in the No Child Left Behind legislation of 2001.
School choice provides you the opportunity to transfer your child to a choice of schools in the district that are not classified in School Improvement or Corrective Action. Currently, Darby Township students are not eligible for choice.

Southeast Delco is committed to providing the best possible instruction to your child and has aggressively implemented changes to align our curriculum and instructional practices to our state assessments. Student achievement as measured by the PSSA is critical to the future of our district. In 2010-2011, schools were required to achieve 72% proficiency in Reading and 67% proficiency in Mathematics or meet a combination of benchmarks based on past performance.

Below is a preliminary snapshot of our 2010-2011 performance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Proficient or above in Reading</th>
<th>Proficient or above in Mathematics</th>
<th>Average Class Size</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darby Township</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>AYP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delcroft</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>AYP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>Making Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Hill</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>Warning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the data may seem confusing, classification is an ongoing process and reflects the results of testing over the last several years. Class sizes listed above are those currently in place based on our enrollment boundaries. These numbers may change significantly based on the number of parents who elect to move students due to school choice. It is expected that class sizes at Darby Township School and Sharon Hill School will increase due to school choice.

Our school and district parent involvement policies and school improvement plans will be updated this fall. You will receive additional information about our initial 2011-2012 Parent Advisory Council meeting through our district voice messaging system and website in early September.

Parent support of our educational program is essential to the success of our students. Communicating with your child’s teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping with your child’s homework, monitoring your child’s television time, and being involved in school related activities with your child are all important steps in your child’s progress. Our goal is to have all students achieve at proficient levels, and we welcome your support.

If you have any question, please contact my office at your earliest convenience. More information about school choice is available at www.education.state.pa.us the Pennsylvania State Department of Education’s official web-site.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Ryan
Assistant Superintendent