



**PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE
NO RECEIVING SCHOOL AVAILABLE**

07/13/2011

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) provides for parents/guardians who have children attending schools identified as needing improvement to be notified of the school's academic achievement. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under ESEA. Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is one of the cornerstones of ESEA. It is a measure of year-to-year student achievement on statewide tests. Title I schools that do not meet the State standard for AYP in the same subject for two or more consecutive years are placed in needs improvement (NI). In compliance with the requirements of ESEA, all students enrolled in a school that is in year one of NI has or have the opportunity to enroll in a school not designated as NI.

As you are aware, AASD is a state school that provides special education services for deaf and hard of hearing students. AASD closely monitors student progress and regularly informs parents of individual student development. However, the state-wide assessments used to determine AYP compares our student test results to the test results of other schools in Georgia rather than individual student progress. AASD did not make AYP using the state-wide assessments to determine student achievement.

In compliance with the requirements of ESEA, all students enrolled in a school identified as "Needs Improvement" has the opportunity to enroll in a school not designated as Needs Improvement. "Public School Choice" is the official name of this transfer option. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides specific protections and procedures for students in special education. Therefore, parents/guardians interested in the "Public School Choice" option should contact their local school system to schedule an Individualized Education Program (IEP) conference to discuss placement options.

AASD will offer supplemental educational services (SES). Supplemental educational services include academic assistance such as tutoring, remediation, and other educational interventions designed to increase student achievement. These services will be provided at no cost. Information regarding AASD's SES program will be sent home in the near future.

In spite of the progress made by our students, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf has been included on a list of schools in Georgia identified as not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). Atlanta Area School for the Deaf is identified as a needs improvement year (NI) 7 school under ESEA. AASD will continue to implement a School Improvement Plan to address student achievement and improve student outcomes and in accordance with ESEA, specifically addressing the reason why the school is identified as NI. An important part of the success plan for Atlanta Area School for the Deaf is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that as a parent, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you are interested in participating in developing our school improvement initiatives, contact Vanessa Robisch at 404-294-3551, 866-703-5863 (vp), 404-294-3522 (fax), email vrobisch@doe.k12.ga.us. Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Robisch
Principal