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ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION
JEFFERSON PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
501 MANHATTAN BOULEVARD
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(504) 349-7901

NCLB

Germain Gilson
Assistant Superintendent of
Federal Programs

July 28, 2011

Dear Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

As a requirement of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Federal law, school districts must notify parents if their child's school has been identified as a school in need of improvement. Bonnabel has been identified as a school that must offer school choice to its students. You are invited to attend an information meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bonnabel cafeteria. At this meeting, you will receive an overview of NCLB and the plan to improve Bonnabel.

To help you understand how the choice program works, here are some answers to frequently asked questions. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Why was Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School identified as a "school in need of improvement"?

Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School was identified as a school in need of improvement because a subgroup(s) of students did not meet performance goals established by the State on standardized tests.

What is Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School doing to address the problem of low achievement, and what are the school system and the Louisiana State Department of Education doing to help them address the problem?

The district has developed a High School Turnaround Zone under the close guidance of a Turnaround Officer. As a part of this zone, Bonnabel was required to change 15% of its professional staff from last school year. Teachers will receive targeted professional development to address the needs of both the teachers and students. The school will implement literacy strategies, tutorial programs and innovative math strategies.

Additional assistance includes:

- Staffing with highly qualified teachers;
- Additional support staff will include class-size reduction teachers;
- Supplemental Education Services Extended-Day Program;
- Embedded test-taking strategies throughout the school year;
- Job-embedded Professional Development;
- Response to Intervention;
- District monitoring of teaching and learning

How can I become involved in addressing the problem that caused Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School to be identified as a school in need of improvement?

Families are encouraged to arrange a private conference with their child's teachers to discuss ways to improve academic performance. Families are also invited to participate as members of the School

Improvement Team at Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School. The School Improvement Team is a group made up of the principal, teachers, parents, and community members that work to improve the educational and overall experience for all students at Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School. Even if a family member does not serve as a member of the School Improvement Team, he or she may attend meetings of the team to discuss possible changes in any area of instruction to improve Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School. Parents are also encouraged to attend district and school planned parent meetings to learn about additional resources available to families.

Do I have to transfer my child to another school?

No. We are providing families with this opportunity as an option. The decision is entirely up to you, so you should base your decision on what you think is best for your child. If you choose to leave your child at Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School as registered, all you have to do is make sure he or she attends the school on the first day of class.

If I transfer my child to a higher performing school, must they remain at the school the entire year?

Yes, if you do choose to transfer your child to a new school, he/she must remain there for the full school year.

To which schools may my child transfer?

Under the School Choice Program, students at Bonnabel High School may choose to attend one of the following four (4) schools:

East Jefferson (Grades 9-12)
2009-10 School Performance Score: 85.6
400 Phlox St.
Metairie, Louisiana 70001
TAKE IN TIME: 7:20 A.M.
DISMISSAL TIME: 2:40 P.M.

Riverdale High School (Grades 9-12)
2009-10 School Performance Score: 79.5
240 Riverdale Dr.
Jefferson, Louisiana 70121
TAKE IN TIME: 7:20 A.M.
DISMISSAL TIME: 2:40 P.M.

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies (Grades 6-12) **(if criteria is met)**
2009-10 School Performance Score: 157.9
1416 Metairie Rd.
Metairie, Louisiana 70005
TAKE IN TIME: 7:20 A.M.
DISMISSAL TIME: 2:40 P.M.

Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy (Grades 6-12) **(if criteria is met)**
2009-10 School Performance Score: 153.7
2012 Jefferson Hwy.
Jefferson, Louisiana 70121
TAKE IN TIME: 7:20 A.M.
DISMISSAL TIME: 2:40 P.M.

If you choose to have your child attend one of these schools, please select your first and second choices, with your first choice as number 1 and your second choice as number 2 on the *Request for School Transfer* form. These schools did make AYP and have higher School Improvement Scores than Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School. The 2009-10 School Performance Score for East Jefferson High School is 85.6, Riverdale High School is 79.5, Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy is 153.7, and Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies is 157.9 compared to Bonnabel's which is 69.9. The 2009-10 average State Performance Score is 89.4 and the average District Performance Score is 84.9.

Is my child guaranteed a place in a receiving school?

Students will be granted enrollment in the schools above based upon enrollment limits, individual achievement scores, and income levels as prescribed by NCLB.

Will my child be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities in the new school?

Students must follow the current JPPSS athletic eligibility/residency requirements. Contact Manny Barocco's office (349-8645) with any questions regarding athletics.

How will my child get to a receiving school?

If your transfer application is approved, your child will have free transportation and will ride the bus to the designated receiving school. In order to begin transporting students on the first attendance day, transportation "hubs" will be set-up for students.

Will my child be allowed to remain at the school of choice when Bonnabel is no longer a school in need of improvement?

Yes, your child may remain at the school of choice until he/she graduates, however, when Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School is no longer considered a "school in need of improvement," transportation will no longer be provided.

What is the deadline for applying?

If you decide you want to send your child to one of the receiving schools, the *Request for School Transfer* form must be returned to Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School, 2801 Bruin Dr., Kenner, Louisiana, 70065 no later than Wednesday, August 10, 2011. If we do not receive the *Request for School Transfer* form from you by Wednesday, August 10, 2011, your child must remain enrolled at Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School.

When will you tell me if my transfer application is approved?

Parents will receive the *District Response to Transfer* form informing them their transfer application is approved by August 11, 2011. Students may start attending the choice schools on Monday, August 15, 2011, or as soon as official notification is received by parents and registration at school of choice is completed. Transfers will be handled as soon as possible. However, students will continue to attend Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School until official notification letters are received.

What if I choose to have my child continue to attend Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School?

The Bonnabel faculty and staff are committed to achieving noticeable gains this school year. You would continue to send your child to Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School and become actively involved in the turnaround at Bonnabel. We value your input.

Recap:

- Transportation will be provided by Jefferson Parish Public Schools and bus information will be available by August 12, 2011.
- A choice transfer is valid with transportation while Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School is considered a "school in need of improvement." When Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School is no longer considered a "school in need of improvement," your child **may continue to attend** the chosen school of choice until he/she completes the highest grade the school has to offer. **However, bus transportation is not provided.**
- Students opting for Choice may not return to Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School until the current school year has ended.
- Students opting for Choice will be required to follow the rules and regulations of the school to which he/she transfers.

If you have more questions, problems, or concerns about the School Choice Program, you may contact:

Title I School Choice Office
Jefferson Parish Public Schools
501 Manhattan Boulevard
Harvey, Louisiana 70058

Contact: Melissa Chauvin
Phone: (504) 349-7967
Fax: (504) 349-7745
Email: Melissa.Chauvin@jppss.k12.la.us

Sincerely,

Germain Gilson
Assistant Superintendent of Federal Programs

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