

October 9, 2009

Dear Family of a Banks Elementary Student

The East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS) has received new information from the Louisiana Department of Education about the performance of Banks Elementary School during the 2008-2009 school year.

**1. Why was Banks Elementary School identified as a “school in need of improvement,” and how does it compare to other schools in East Baton Rouge Parish and in the rest of Louisiana?**

Banks Elementary School was identified as a school in need of improvement because it failed to meet performance goals established by the state in the areas of standardized tests, attendance and dropout rates. The school received a 2009 School Performance Score (SPS) of 57.4 that placed it in the category of an Academically Unacceptable School (AUS 5).

The Louisiana Department of Education maintains the accountability information for all schools in East Baton Rouge Parish and the state of Louisiana. The information may be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.louisianaschools.net>. You also may contact the EBRPSS Accountability Office for more information at (225) 226-7625.

**2. What is Banks Elementary School doing to address the problem of low achievement, and what is the School System and the state doing to help them address the problem?**

The administration is evaluating all areas of instruction aggressively at Banks Elementary School. This evaluation includes interviews and surveys of students, teachers and parents to determine what areas need to be improved. The survey information will be used to prepare a proactive School Improvement Plan. This plan requires classroom instruction and teacher training that focuses on improving the areas in which students at Banks Elementary School are having difficulty. In the meantime, the school is exploring tutoring, mentoring and other types of assistance to improve student achievement.

**3. How can I become involved in addressing the problems that caused Banks Elementary School to be identified as a school in need of improvement?**

Parents are encouraged to arrange a private conference with their child's teachers to discuss ways to improve his or her academic performance. They also are invited to become members of the School Improvement Team at Banks Elementary School. The School Improvement Team is composed of the principal, teachers and parents and works to improve the education and overall learning experience of all students at Banks Elementary School. Even if a family member does not serve as a member of the School Improvement Team, he or she is encouraged to attend meetings to discuss possible improvements in any area of instruction.

**4. Is my child eligible for School Choice?**

The School Choice option for Banks Elementary School was offered at the beginning of this school year. Parental requests for School Choice were accepted through August 28, 2009 and all transfers were completed by September 25, 2009. Should the school be identified for corrective action again, EBRPSS will offer School Choice at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

## 5. Is my child eligible for free tutoring (Supplemental Educational Services)?

Students at Banks Elementary School may be eligible to receive extra academic assistance through a program known as **Supplemental Educational Services (SES)**. These services are offered free of charge and are intended to help your child improve his or her academic performance. Please call Diane Helire at (225) 922-5514 if you have questions about the SES program or would like help in choosing a provider.

### Additional Questions?

If you have any further questions about Banks Elementary School, you may contact your child's school or the EBRPSS Accountability Office for additional information:

Banks Elementary School  
2401 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807  
Phone: (225) 357-3371  
Fax: (225) 336-2665

Contact: Lizabeth Frischhertz  
EBRPSS Accountability Office  
Phone: (225) 922-5400 or (225) 226-7625  
Fax: (225) 226-7605  
E-mail: [lfrischert@ebrschools.org](mailto:lfrischert@ebrschools.org)

Sincerely,



| John Dilworth, Superintendent