

October 9, 2009

Dear Family of a Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy Student:

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

**1. Why was Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy 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?**

Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy 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 38.8 that placed it in the category of an Academically Unacceptable School (AUS 1).

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 Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy 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 Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy. 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 Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy 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 Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy 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 Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy. 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 Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy. 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?**

Because Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy is a school attended by parental choice, you always have the option for your child to return to his or her home school.

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

Students at Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy 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 Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy, you may contact your child's school or the EBRPSS Accountability Office for additional information:

Northdale Alternative Magnet Academy  
10755 Cletus Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815  
Phone: (225) 272-2036  
Fax: (225) 272-2125

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

Sincerely,



| John Dilworth, Superintendent