

October 27, 2009

CORRECTED COPY

Dear Family of a Tara High Student:

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

1. Why was Tara High 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?

Tara High 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 Improvement identification of School Improvement Level 1 (SI 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 Tara High 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 Tara High 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 Tara High 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 Tara High 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 Tara High 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 Tara High 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?

No. Because Tara High School is entering School Improvement status for the first time, students attending Tara High will **not** be eligible for School Choice until the **second year** of its identification.

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

Students at Tara High 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 Tara High School, you may contact your child's school or the EBRPSS Accountability Office for additional information:

Tara High School
9002 Whitehall Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Phone: (225) 927-6100
Fax: (225) 928-0122

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

Sincerely,



| John Dilworth, Superintendent