



East Baton Rouge Parish School System
P.O. Box 2950
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
Phone: 225-922-5400
www.ebrschools.org

November 28, 2006

Dear Family:

Your child's school has been identified as a school in need of improvement under the Louisiana Accountability System. Because of a waiver, this school will not have to offer choice. However, we are required to notify you that the school has received a label of "Academically Unacceptable" and a baseline school performance score below 60. To understand how schools are identified, here are some answers to questions you may have:

Why was the 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?

Schools were identified as a school in need of improvement because the school failed to meet performance goals established by the State in the areas of standardized tests, attendance and dropout rates. All Louisiana schools receive a School Performance Score. When a baseline school performance score falls below 60, the school is placed in the category of "Academically Unacceptable". There were 25 schools in East Baton Rouge identified as "Academically Unacceptable."

A copy of the principal report card for all schools in the district and state can be viewed on the Louisiana Department of Education website (www.louisianaschools.net). Click the file folder labeled "Accountability" at the top of the home page. You will find "school report cards" listed at the right of the new page. Parent report cards will be distributed by the Louisiana Department of Education later in the year.

What is the school doing to address the problem of low achievement, and what is the school system and the Louisiana Department of Education doing to help them address the problem?

The administration will evaluate all areas of instruction at your child's school. This evaluation includes interviews and surveys of students, teachers, and parents to determine what areas need to be improved. The information obtained will be used to prepare a School Improvement Plan. These plans require classroom instruction and teacher training to focus on improving the areas in which students are having difficulty. The district assigned a team of central office staff and a visiting principal to review the school plan and site three times per year. This team makes recommendations to the superintendent related to the specific needs of the school. The data for each school is compiled and presented to the school board for recommendation and review.

How can I become involved in addressing the problems that caused my child's 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, which are formed at every district school. The School Improvement Team is a group made up of the principal, teachers and parents that works to improve the education and overall learning experience for all students at your child's 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 that result in improved instruction and learning opportunities for all students at the school. Families are encouraged to attend parent meetings, open houses, and other events that are held at all schools in the district.

Can I transfer my child to another school?

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education waived the school choice requirement for this school this year, so choice transfers are not offered for your child's school. You may have other transfer options and you can contact Sandra Smith at 922-5656 to determine if you are eligible for other types of transfer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlotte Placide". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Charlotte Placide, Superintendent