



PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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A MESSAGE TO PARENTS REGARDING THE 2017-2018 NJ STATE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is responsible for upholding a federal law called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. The federal law provides funding so all children may receive equitable programs and services, and sets forth minimum requirements, particularly around measuring and reporting school performance and providing support to the schools that need the most help.

New Jersey's ESSA school accountability system is used to identify schools where assistance is needed most, so the state can provide resources to help those schools best support their students. The ESSA accountability system includes the following indicators to measure how well schools are preparing students for success after high school: Chronic Absenteeism, Academic Achievement, Academic Growth (for elementary and middle schools), Graduation Rate (for high schools) and English Language Proficiency. These scores are used to identify schools that are in need of targeted or comprehensive support and improvement.

Five Pemberton Township Schools have been identified as schools in need of support and improvement.

- **Marcus Newcomb Middle School has been identified as a school in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement.** This classification is given to any school performing at or below the fifth percentile of those schools that receive Title I federal funds or any high school with a graduation rate less than 67%.

- **Helen A. Fort Middle School, Pemberton Township High School, Alexander Denbo School, and Joseph Stackhouse School have been identified as schools in need of Targeted Support and Improvement.** A school can be identified for targeted support and improvement if it has consistently underperforming subgroups (i.e. one or more subgroups misses interim targets and performs below the state average for **all** available indicators for two consecutive years). This classification is also given to any school with one or more student subgroups performing at or below the lowest 5% of schools that receive Title I funds.

Note: Student subgroups are defined in federal law and include different racial and ethnic groups, English language learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students.

Over 270 schools throughout the state have been identified as schools in need of support and improvement, and the NJDOE is committed to providing support and funding to help those schools achieve effective and verifiable improvement. **Rest assured that at Pemberton Township Schools we are working tirelessly to improve our schools and will continue to assess our areas of weakness, identify strategies for improvement, and dedicate resources and staff committed to ensuring that every student succeeds.**

[Click here for a comprehensive look at the 2017-18 NJ School Performance Reports.](#)