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## **STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVES ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS STATUS FROM STATE FOR 2010**

*Twice as many schools make AYP this year in Math compared to 2009  
NCLB subgroups also show substantial Math improvement*

(August 12, 2010) The State Department of Education has named the Stamford Public School district and 17 schools within the district as In Need of Improvement under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The Academy of Information Technology & Engineering is “All Clear”, meaning it achieved all targets. Toquam Magnet Elementary School and Rippowam Middle School achieved “Safe Harbor”, meaning they increased the number of students scoring at/above Proficient by at least 10% despite missing proficiency targets. Both schools could come off the list by making similar improvements next year.

Districtwide, schools made substantial improvement in Math, where the following gains were achieved: (See also Table 1)

- **Whole school:** 16 schools made AYP at the Whole District level this year compared with 8 last year
- **Black students:** Black students in 6 schools made AYP this year compared with 3 last year
- **Hispanic students:** Hispanic students in 12 schools made AYP this year compared with 6 last year
- **English Language Learners (ELL):** ELL students in 3 schools made AYP this year compared with 1 last year
- **Economically Disadvantaged:** Economically Disadvantaged students in 10 schools made AYP this year compared with 4 last year

Districts and schools are named In Need of Improvement if they do not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the same subject, either Math or Reading, for two years in a row on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) or the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). This requirement applies to all students in a school and to all NCLB student subgroups. Subgroups include White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, and English Language Learners. AYP is measured by the proficiency targets that students must meet in Math and Reading under NCLB. Additionally, NCLB requires 95% participation on the CMTs and CAPT.

AYP proficiency targets for the Spring 2010 CMT, which are given to students in grades 3-8, were 82% in Math and 79% in Reading. The Spring 2010 proficiency targets on the CAPT were 80% in Math and 81% in Reading. The standards will rise in 2011 to require that approximately 9 in 10 students meet the proficiency standards in Math and Reading, and rise again to 100 percent of students by 2014.

## SPS AYP 2009 (2)

The Stamford Public School district is in Year 7, In Need of Improvement. On the Spring 2010 CMTs, Asian and White students met AYP proficiency targets in Math and Reading and the Whole District met the proficiency target in Math. On the CAPT, Asian and White students met AYP proficiency targets in Reading and Math. Other subgroups did not meet proficiency targets.

“The AYP results tell us what we already know, that we are making some substantial progress in Mathematics and that we have a ways to go in Literacy,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr. “We also know that the lack of nuance in NCLB inappropriately labels schools as failing when many of our schools, particularly at the elementary and middle school levels, have made excellent progress over the past five years in improving outcomes for all children.” Dr. Starr credited the district’s educators for embracing widespread curriculum reforms and the GE Developing Futures™ Program for its seven-year, multi-million dollar investment in Stamford Public Schools.

Individual AYP status for each school is described below:

- The Academy of Information Technology & Engineering is designated “All Clear”, having met all AYP proficiency targets.
- Toquam Magnet Elementary School and Rippowam Middle School achieved “Safe Harbor”, meaning they increased the number of students scoring at/above Proficient by at least 10% despite missing proficiency targets.
- Westover Magnet Elementary and Scofield Magnet Elementary did not make AYP for the first time. Schools that do not make AYP for two years in a row are named In Need of Improvement.
- Newfield Elementary School is in Year 3, In Need of Improvement.
- Hart Magnet Elementary, K.T. Murphy Elementary, Rogers International School, Springdale Elementary, and Stillmeadow Elementary are In Need of Improvement, Year 4.
- Davenport Ridge Elementary, Roxbury Elementary, and Dolan Middle School are In Need of Improvement, Year 5.
- Northeast Elementary, Stark Elementary, Cloonan Middle, and Stamford High are in Need of Improvement, Year 6.
- Turn of River Middle and Westhill High are in Need of Improvement, Year 7.

As a result of the above, SPS will do the following in the 2010-2011 school year, as required by NCLB and the State:

- Schools will update their 2009-2010 School Improvement Plans.
- Supplemental Educational Services (SES) will be offered to students eligible for the federal free and reduced price lunch program who attend Title I schools identified as In Need of Improvement, Year 2 or above. SES provides learning and enrichment opportunities for students beyond the regular school day.
- Stamford Public Schools will continue to partner with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to meet all accountability requirements. Additionally, SPS has invested in several long-term strategies to increase college readiness for all students in the four areas detailed in the Strategic District Improvement Plan: (1) curriculum, instruction & assessment; (2) de-tracking; (3) Professional Learning Communities and Data Teams; and (4) school culture. Each of the four areas includes high-leverage strategies to increase student achievement.