

Bethune Middle School

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ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVER SCHOOL DESIGNATION STATUS: REWARD SCHOOL

June 24, 2014

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On February 9, 2012 the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) received waivers from ten requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of 2001. ESEA/NCLB requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of the school's academic achievement as well as the school's designation under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver and to help you understand what the waiver will mean for you and your child.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the GaDOE transitioned from needs improvement (NI) school designations based on adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports to Reward, Priority, Focus and Alert Schools designations based on ESEA Flexibility Waiver formulas. Title I schools now implement specific programs and interventions based on Reward, Priority, Focus, and Alert Schools status. In addition, the GaDOE ESEA Flexibility Waiver outlines Georgia's new Single Statewide Accountability System, the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). The CCRPI serves as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia. The state system gives parents, students, teachers and families a more complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations and where it is not.

The Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver also eliminated Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Public School Choice (Choice). However, schools designated as Priority or Focus will be required to implement and develop Flexible Learning Programs (FLP). Alert Schools may also implement and develop FLP if they choose to do so. The Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver provides greater flexibility in designing a FLP tailored to the needs of the schools. As a result, these identified schools will have the capacity to serve more students in need of additional academic support.

I am very proud to tell you that Bethune Middle **School** has been designated as a **Reward School** under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver for this past school year! This accomplishment is very noteworthy.

Reward Schools replace the Title I Distinguished Schools and Distinguished Districts designations. They are identified annually and may be classified as either Highest-Performing Schools or High-Progress Schools. Schools designated as Highest-Performing Reward Schools are in the top 5% of Title I schools and either have the highest performance for all students over three years or are high schools with the highest graduation rates in Georgia. Schools designated as High-Progress Reward Schools must be in the top 10% of Title I schools and either have the highest progress in performance for all students over three years or be high schools that are making the most progress in increasing graduation rates.

BMS is classified as a Reward School because it is among the 10% of Title I schools in the State that is making the most progress in improving the performance of the "all students" group over three years on the statewide assessments. .

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