



BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Building a Learning Community

September 1, 2010

Dear John J. Flynn Parents and Guardians:

According to the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), we are required to send this notice to all parents. However, in accordance with NCLB, only students who qualify for free / reduced lunch are eligible to apply for these services.

In March, the Vermont Department of Education identified John J. Flynn as a school in need of improvement based upon student performance on state NECAP tests administered in October 2009. John J. Flynn did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in mathematics for English Language Learner (ELL) students and reading and math for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch (SES). We will receive technical assistance from the State Department of Education to support our improvement efforts.

As a result, the school is required to provide Supplemental Educational Services – extra academic assistance/tutoring to improve eligible reading and mathematics students' academic performance – free of charge. If you are eligible and choose to participate, you'll be able to select a program that best fits your child's needs. This letter will explain the new services, tell you how to access them and also offer ideas about how you can be involved at John J. Flynn.

Eligibility: Only children who are eligible for free and reduced-price federal meals can participate. We have attached an application to participate in this program. If you have not previously applied for free and reduced-price federal meals program, please return the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application along with the application for Supplemental Educational Services.

Limited services available: Only a limited number of spaces are available. As a result, we may not be able to enroll every child whose parent applies. We will give first priority to the lowest-achieving students. This achievement level will be based on the student's score on the NECAP test.

You get to choose: One of the most important features of Supplemental Educational Services is that families are the ones who will make choices for their children. You can choose among different types of services, given by different providers at different locations. Remember that there's no obligation to enroll your child in Supplemental Educational Services.



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Service providers: The Vermont Department of Education has approved a list of eligible providers. If you wish to have your child receive tutoring from one of these approved providers, please complete the enclosed application.

Application deadline: If you decide you want to enroll your student in the Supplemental Educational Services program, you must submit the enclosed application to Karen Carr by October 6, 2010. We will let you know by October 10, 2010 if we have approved your application to have your child participate in the Supplemental Educational Services program. We hope to begin programs the week of October 26, 2010.

Questions: If you have questions regarding the Supplemental Educational Services program please contact Joyce Irvine, the Burlington School Improvement Coordinator, at 238-3995.

How you can get involved in the school: We are updating our action plan to continue to improve our focused assistance for students who are not progressing as we would like. We would like to have parents involved in this process. Please contact your school principal, Graham Clarke, if you wish to learn more and participate in our improvement process.

What we're doing to improve outcomes at John J. Flynn School:

You may be aware of the many things we are already doing to improve student progress in math, reading and writing. These initiatives include a new math program, Bridges, a homework club and a breakfast club where students get extra help, Math Mania was started last year where students work with math teachers in the after school program, all teachers are receiving on-going professional development with the VT Mathematics Initiative and a data approach to address students demonstrating need. We are continually reflecting on our curriculum and instruction in grade level teams and as a whole staff to ensure that it adequately meets the needs of all our children.

We are updating our action plan to continue to improve our focused assistance for students who are not progressing, as we would like. We would like to have parents involved in this process. Please contact me if you would like to be involved our school improvement efforts.

Sincerely,

Graham Clarke,
Principal
John J. Flynn School
864-8478

Jeanne Collins,
Superintendent
Burlington School District
865-5332