

**Keystone Education Center
Charter School
425 South Good Hope Road
Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125
www.keystonecharterschool.com**

Phone (724) 588-2511

Fax (724) 588-2545

August 6, 2014

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On August 20, 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) 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. However, ESEA/NCLB still 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 Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver and to help you understand what the waiver will mean for you and your child.

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, PDE no longer uses Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to determine a school's designation. Instead, in accordance with the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, PDE will use four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to designate the Title I school as Reward – High Achievement, Reward – High Progress, Priority, or Focus schools. The four AMOs include: measuring test participation rate; graduation/attendance rate; closing the achievement gap for all students; and closing the achievement gap for the historically underperforming students. In addition, all public schools in the state will receive a School Performance Profile score based on 100 points. This score will be considered the school's academic performance score, and while not the criteria for determination of Reward, Priority or Focus status, it details student performance through scoring of multiple measures that define achievement. The School Performance Profile also includes supports to permit schools to access materials and resources to improve in defined areas related to achievement.

Despite the progress made by our students, Keystone Charter School was designated as a Priority School beginning with the 2013-14 school year. This designation was based on test data from the 2012-13 school year and our school will keep this designation for three years.

As a Priority School, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, our community and our school district office to develop a school turnaround plan which will implement interventions to respond to the specific needs of improving the performance of our low-performing student subgroups. To address the achievement needs, the Charter School has planning in place to include the following: Parental Involvement Opportunities as outlined in the Parental Involvement Policy, District-wide Instructional Literacy Coaches to provide classroom resources and supports, the use of multiple data sources to make data-informed decisions to best meet individual student needs, a school-wide writing model to increase writing organization and structure, Student Assistance Program that will meet individual student academic, behavioral, and truancy needs, and remediation through standards and benchmark computer programming in mathematics and English/literature. These focus areas will ensure that the most appropriate programming will occur for the student to succeed.

An important part of the success plan for Keystone Charter School is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that, as a parent/guardian, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations.

The Title One School Wide Plan, as well as the Parent Involvement Policy, will be updated this fall. If you are interested in providing input into this policy, please call me at 724-588-2511. **The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at Keystone Education Center Charter School.**

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gentile", written in a cursive style.

Mike Gentile
Chief Executive Officer