

To: Parent or Guardian
From: Steven H. Godowsky, NCC Vo-Tech School District Superintendent
Evelyn Edney, Howard High School of Technology Principal
Re: Educational Options/No Child Left Behind Requirements
Date: August 19, 2009

□ The highest priority for the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District is to improve student achievement. Our district is currently engaged in special efforts to improve student performance at Howard High School of Technology. A School Improvement Plan, developed in 2008-2009, focuses on providing instructional coaching support and new technology programs in the areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts. These are the content areas needing improvement, as identified by the Delaware Student Testing Program.

□ Howard has been rated as “under improvement” by the Delaware Department of Education and is thereby required to offer educational options that include Supplemental Educational Services and school choice for students.

□ Supplemental Educational Services (Only For Students Who Receive Free & Reduced Lunch)
Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, your child is eligible to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES) in the areas of math, reading and language arts. You may choose a tutoring program that you feel is best for your child.

□ A list of approved Supplemental Educational Providers is available from the Delaware Department of Education School Improvement web site: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/SchoolImprovement>. This link also provides information on how to choose a provider that is best for your child. All of these programs have been approved by the Delaware Department of Education and will provide your child with tutoring that is coordinated with the curriculum taught at Howard.

□ When deciding which tutoring program is best for your child, you should consider:

- When and where will the tutoring take place (at school, home, a community center)?
- How often and for how many hours in total will your child be tutored?
- What programs, by grade levels and subject areas, are available for your child?
- What type of instruction will the tutor use (small group, one-on-one, or computer)?
- What are the tutors' qualifications?
- How will your child's progress be shared with you?
- Can the tutor help if your child has disabilities or is learning English?
- Is transportation available to and from where the tutoring will take place?

□ If you choose this option, please contact the office of Howard Assistant Principal Mitch Weiss, Ed.D., at 302-571-5419, by September 15, 2009, for more information to complete your registration for SES services.

• School Choice

Based on the NCLB law, Howard is required to offer public school choice. For the 2009-2010 school year, you may choose to have your child remain at Howard full time, or you may choose to have your child take academic courses only during the school day at one of the school district's high schools not currently classified under improvement (Hodgson or St. Georges). Transportation would be provided. This choice option is offered for academic core courses only (Math, English, Science, Social Studies). The career and technical courses, and all other related and required courses will be provided at Howard. Howard will remain the home school for your child, including all extra-curricular activities and athletic programs. If you select to participate in this choice option, you must contact the New Castle County Vo-Tech School District Division of Instruction at 302-683-3770, by September 15 for details. Shelley Rouser, Ed.D., Supervisor of Instruction, will provide information on scheduling and transportation logistics. While not part of the NCLB mandated choice option, as parents you may choose to return your son/daughter to your local school district high school prior to September 30th.

If you choose this option, please contact the office of District Supervisor of Instruction Shelley Rouser, Ed.D., at 302-683-3770, by September 15, 2009, to complete your registration.

• Remain at Howard

Staff members at Howard have a relationship with your child and want to continue serving your child through 12th grade. If you want your child to remain at Howard, you do not need to take any additional action. We have described in the cover letter those initiatives Howard is implementing to improve instruction and student achievement.

If you have a question about the school choice option, please contact Dr. Rouser. We are looking forward to a year of educational success and continuous improvement for all of our students. Thank you for choosing the NCC Vo-Tech School District for your son/daughter's high school education.