



## Spring Branch Independent School District

**Spring Woods Middle School**  
9810 Neuens Rd. Houston, Texas 77080  
Phone (713) 251-5000 • Fax (713) 365-4115  
**Karen Liska, Principal**

August 4, 2011

Spring Branch Independent School District

TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING Spring Woods Middle School:

Under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is required to identify Title I, Part A campuses in need of improvement if the campus does not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the same indicator for two or more consecutive years. TEA has notified the Local Education Agency (LEA) administration in August 2011, that Spring Woods Middle School will be subject to Stage I school improvement requirements for not meeting AYP in math for two or more years.

The No Child Left Behind Act (P.L. 107-110) requires the LEA to notify you of this status and to provide you with the following information. Please be advised that the campus will have the opportunity to appeal this school improvement designation later this fall. However, the requirements described in this letter must be implemented for the entire school year, regardless of the outcome of the appeal.

Under accountability provisions in the NO Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, all public school campuses and LEAs are evaluated for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Campuses and districts are required to meet AYP criteria on three measures: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics and either Graduation rate (for high schools and districts) or Attendance Rate (for elementary and middle/junior high schools).

If a campus or LEA that is receiving Title I, Part A funds does not meet AYP for two consecutive years, that campus or LEA is subject to certain requirements such as offering school choice, offering supplemental education services, and/or taking arequired corrective action. For additional information about the AYP definition please visit TEA's website at <http://.ritter.tea.state.tx.us/ayp/>.

The LEA is required, not later than fourteen days prior to the start of school, following the identification of improvement status, to provide all students enrolled in the school with the option to transfer to another public school served by the LEA, which may include a public charter school that has not been identified for improvement. The School Choice option may not be applicable to Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools or other campuses that are by design schools of choice.

**Student Eligibility for School Choice:** All students enrolled in a Title I, Part A campus that has been identified for improvement are eligible to exercise the school choice option. However, in providing students the option to transfer to another public school, if the district is unable to grant each parent's first choice of a new school or if the district is unable to provide transportation costs for all requests, the LEA must give priority to the lowest achieving children from low-income families, as determined by the LEA for the purpose of making Title I, Part A campus allocations. LEAs are required to offer the parents of each eligible student a choice of more than one school, if there is more than one school within the LEA that has not been identified for improvement, and to take into account the parents' preference in assigning students to a new school. An LEA is obligated to provide school choice to all students. Transferring students should be treated as students who have moved into the receiving school's attendance zone and allowed to enroll in class and other activities on the same basis as all other students at the public school.

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For additional information regarding school improvements requirements, please visit the following website:  
[http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4459&menu\\_id=798](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4459&menu_id=798).

Two key responsibilities of the Texas Education Agency are assessing public school students on what they have learned and determining district and school accountability ratings. TEA provides a variety of reports based on the results of student testing and other assessments in order for parents to be able to determine how their child's campus compares in performance to other elementary or secondary campuses in the district and the state. For additional information and to locate the reports that compare campuses and districts, please visit <http://ritter.tea.state.us/student.assessment/reporting/>.

As the parent or guardian of a student attending a campus identified for school improvement status, you have the option to request a transfer of your child to another public school within the LEA that is not identified for school improvement status. You have the option to request a transfer beginning immediately or at the beginning of the second semester. As stated above, even if the campus is granted an appeal of this designation, the school transfer requests will be honored through the end of the school year. The following campuses are available to you to request a transfer.

Landrum Middle School, Academically Acceptable

Northbrook Middle School, Academically Acceptable

Spring Forest Middle School, Academically Acceptable

Spring Oaks Middle School, Academically Acceptable

To request a transfer, for additional academic information on campuses available for transfer, or for more information on this school choice option, please contact Sofia Petrou, Executive Director for Secondary Administration. The LEA will honor all transfers requested within 30 days of the date of this letter. Attached is a short question and answer document regarding this school choice option.

The campus will be implementing the following activities to address the reasons the campus has been identified for school improvement: participate in an Algebra I readiness grant, full time staff member as math coach, students and teachers will be using technology in the implementation of effective math teaching strategies, schoolwide effort to infuse literacy strategies to include specific vocabulary development in math, etc.

In addition, the LEA will provide the following assistance to the campus to address the reasons for identification under AYP: the appointment of a new principal, assist campus staff in analyzing test data; provide targeted staff development to math teachers, additional math instruction to selected students through tutorials and small group instruction, etc.

You may become involved in addressing the reasons the campus is identified for improvement by assisting in the following ways: assist campus staff in revising the campus improvement plan; participate in parent involvement activities that assist you in learning how to increase your child's achievement level; attend parent-teacher conferences, conference with school counselor to discuss your child's progress, etc.

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Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) when a Title I, Part A campus is identified in Stage 2, 3, 4, or 5 of the School Improvement Program (SIP), the LEA is required to arrange for the provision of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) free of charge for students from low-income families. For purposes of the School Improvement Program (SIP), supplemental educational services are defined as free tutoring and other free supplemental academic enrichment services that are in addition to instruction provided during the school day and are of high quality, researched-based, and specifically designed to increase the academic achievement of eligible children on the state assessment and to assist them in attaining proficiency in meeting the state's academic achievement standards. Please note, SES is not homework assistance.

SES must be implemented by the uniform school start date for Stage 2 and above campuses and continue until the campus exits the SIP. If your student is eligible for Supplemental Educational Services, you will receive an additional detailed letter about these services. Additional information on Supplemental Educational Services is available at <http://www.sircctexas.net/>.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or need us to provide you with paper copies of the material referenced in the web sites, please contact Sofia Petrou, Executive Director of Secondary Administration at 713-251-2467.

The leadership of Spring Branch ISD and the principal and staff of Spring Woods Middle School are committed to providing every child with a quality education. We look forward to working with you and your child in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Liska".

Karen Liska  
Principal  
Attachments

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